Daily Report

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NOTICE TO READERS: ***For more reportage on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's 21 September 1993 edict dissolving the Supreme Soviet and reaction to the continuing crisis in Russia, please see the 6 October 1993 Central Eurasia Supplement entitled "Presidential-Parliamentary Crisis in Russia."***

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India, Iran Compete in Central Asia

PM0510131193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Oct 93 First Edition p 3

[Nikolay Paklin report: "Delhi and Tehran Unite in Struggle for Influence in Central Asia"]

[Text] Delhi—The victory of Islamic fundamentalists in Afghanistan gave Pakistan access to Central Asia by way of Afghan territory. Islamabad has sent diplomatic missions to all five Central Asian states and established economic and cultural ties with them.

Pakistan has proposed bringing the Central Asian states up to the shores of the Arabian Sea, connecting them by rail with its port of Karachi, though this proposal does have a significant flaw—they will have to lay the railroad across turbulent Afghan provinces.

Iran has put forward an alternative proposal: To open a corridor through its territory from the border with Turkmenistan to the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas.

This port lies on the banks of the Straits of Hormuz, which links the Indian Ocean with the Persian Gulf. From the engineering point of view, the Iranian project is preferable to the Pakistani one. Here, all you have to do is join the Iranian railroad line to the Turkmen one, that is, to lay several dozen kilometers of extra track.

The Iranian project is also backed by Delhi, as the Pakistani one does not have anything good in store for India. Its goods will continue to be transported to the Central Asian states by a circuitous route: by sea via the expensive Suez Canal to Odessa or Ilichevsk, and from there by rail across Ukraine and Russia to Central Asia. But it is, so to speak, a stone's throw from the Indian ports to Bandar-e 'Abbas.

Indian experts consider that the transport corridor from Bandar-e 'Abbas to the Iran-Turkmenistan border will already be operating by the end of next year.

In getting India to cooperate, Tehran is primarily putting its own interests first and hoping, with India's assistance, to emerge from the international isolation into which it was cast for supporting extremist movements and groupings. It is important for India to wrestle Iran from its Islamic foes. It is also considered in Delhi that Iran will supply India with oil and gas (an agreement on the construction of an Iranian-Indian gas pipeline has already been signed) and will buy goods from it. Military cooperation is also likely: Delhi newspapers are writing that India will assist Iran to modernize its "defense infrastructure."

Their interests also coincide as far as Central Asia is concerned. When the USSR was in existence, Delhi had to communicate with the Soviet Central Asian republics through Moscow. When they proclaimed their independence, India saw the possibility of boosting its political, economic, and cultural influence in them. It regards its presence in Central Asia as counterbalancing the growing influence of the Islamic fundamentalists who are attempting to form a bloc of Islamic states here. There is no doubt in Delhi that it is anti-Indian in orientation.

You can detect religious and ideological motives in Iran's involvement in Central Asia, as well as purely economic interests. Tehran would like to establish the Shiite sect's religious values in the Central Asian states in opposition to Sunni values, which are dominant in neighboring Islamic countries.

In turn, an Indian presence in the Central Asian republics will strengthen the positions of those in favor of secular states. As far as the economy is concerned, commercial exchanges both with India and Iran will help it to improve.

Moscow Expresses 'Deep Regret' at PRC Nuclear Test

LD0510160293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 5 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 5 TASS—Russia expressed on Tuesday its "deep regret" over a nuclear test held by China on October 5.

"Chinese actions cannot but negatively tell on the atmosphere of talks on a complete nuclear test ban", spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Tuesday.

The Foreign Ministry is "studying the situation", he added.

"The Russian president will adopt a decision on the matter after considering all factors, including the reaction of other nuclear states", Karasin said.

Moscow Reiterates Position

OW0510215793 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] At least 71 earthquake observation stations in various countries detected a nuclear test conducted by China. Major news agencies reported this matter, quoting a London-based independent information center responsible for supervising nuclear technology. Nuclear armament experts have predicted that China's nuclear test might seriously interrupt the moratorium on nuclear tests, which was agreed to by Russia, the United States, and France. Although the United States extended its moratorium to 1 October 1994, a White House source declared that this decision would lose effect after the first nuclear explosion was conducted anywhere in the world. Russia has undertaken the commitment to continue its moratorium so long as all nuclear countries observe the moratorium.

IZVESTIYA: Test 'Undermines' Moratorium

PM0610140393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Nuclear Explosion in Xinjiang. PRC Foreign Ministry Will Not Confirm Report"]

[Text] Beijing—So the information from U.S. reconnaissance satellites to the effect that China was preparing to conduct a nuclear test at the underground test site in Xinjiang has been confirmed. The London-based Verification Technology Information Center reported on 5 October that a weapon of between 10 and 19 kilotons had actually been detonated.

I asked the Foreign Ministry to comment on this report. It replied that there was no information as yet on the subject. You may recall in this connection that, at the last briefing, the official Chinese spokesman Wu Jiangmin had avoided giving a direct reply when asked whether China was intending to conduct a nuclear test. He repeated the old Chinese position to the effect that Beijing favors a ban on nuclear tests within the framework of the general prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons. Wu Jiangmin added that China has conducted 25 times fewer tests than the United States, and also far fewer than the other nuclear powers.

Well, China is indeed lagging behind the other members of the "nuclear club" in terms of the number of tests. But the resumption of tests by China undermines the chances of the moratorium, which all the other nuclear powers have effectively joined, being observed. Moreover, the blast in Xinjiang is unlikely to contribute to the success of the meeting between PRC President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President B. Clinton, which is due to take place in Seattle in November. In fact, Clinton actually urged Beijing not to carry out the test and even warned that it could adversely affect trade links between the two powers.

Local observers are wondering why Bejing decided to defy international public opinion. Perhaps the generals in the military-industrial complex had insisted on the continuation of tests because they wanted to improve their products. Be that as it may, the test is unlikely to strengthen China's security. In particular, because it could incite India and Pakistan, which started to create their own nuclear potentials a long time ago, to follow their neighbor's example.

Moreover, it should not be forgotten that the nuclear test site is situated on the territory of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, populated mainly by ethnic minorities. How are the Kazakhs, Uygur, and Kyrgyz living there going to react to the blast? It is difficult to say, since any public protest against the authorities' policy in Xinjiang is inconceivable.

But it is not diffcult to imagine the mood of the indigenous population. Indeed, on the other side of the border, in Kazakhstan, members of the antinuclear movement have said that tests in Xinjiang pose a threat to the health of people living in Central Asia. Remember that the nuclear test site, located in the dried-out Lake Lop Nor, is approximately 900 km from the Chinese border with Kazakhstan.

Amur Border Demarcation 'Extremely Badly Timed'

PM0510141793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Sergey Ponomarev article: "Will We Not Give Up an Inch of Our Land?"]

[Text] Khabarovsk—The statement by Ussuri Cossack Hetman V. Poluyanov, who a few days ago protested on behalf of the Grand Assembly against the "handover of age-old cossack land to a neighboring state," has again

drawn attention to the demarcation of the Russo-Chinese border that is currently under way.

The work that began this spring to accurately delineate borders at the local level is making rapid progress, particularly on the Chinese side. L. Ivanyuta, deputy head of Khabarovsk Kray Administration and a member of the Russo-Chinese joint working group for demarcation on a 220-km sector between the villages of Pokrovka and Kazakevichevo, has announced that sites have been selected for setting up 22 border signs and that foundations have already been concreted in. The geodesy specialists were to have submitted their precise geographical coordinates by mid-September.

So why then are passions continually aroused by this seemingly routine operation and why has public opinion been divided into those who talk about the need to complete work on the border as quickly as possible, and those who are calling for its immediate cessation?

The crux of the problem is that the demarcation agreement, signed back at the time when A. Bessmertnykh was "boss" of the Union Foreign Ministry, took as its basis the principle generally accepted in international law of defining the border as running down the middle of the main channel of navigable rivers, and, in nonnavigable rivers, as running down the middle of the river or the main arm of the river. At the same time, the Treaties of Aigun (1858) and Beijing (1860) drew the border of the Amur-Ussuri region along the shoreline. As a result of these differences, the border is shifting somewhat toward the Russian side, and around 2,000 square kilometers of land—mainly on islands in the Amur and its tributaries—have moved into PRC jurisdiction.

The local press periodically carries reports about large-scale hydrotechnical construction work on the contiguous bank—dams, dikes, and even backfills of certain river channels. Thus, the writers conclude, the Chinese are purposefully striving to alter the channel. They cite the example of the well-known Damanskiy Island, which, following the construction of a special dike, has virtually turned into a peninsula...

It is hard to say to what extent this information corresponds to the truth. With the exception of certain reports from riverboat men—claiming that our neighbors have dumped several bargeloads of rubble into the Kazekevich Channel—the kray authorities simply have no other information. Incidentally, even during the current field work in demarcating the border, the Russian side has upset the hydrotechnical measuring process because special ships were initially not allocated, and then there was no fuel to power them...

The flames have been fanned by the rash statements made by certain regional leaders. For instance, hardly had Kray Governor V. Ishayev appeared on local television saying that "we will never agree to the handover of Great Ussuri and Tarabarov Islands," than the Chinese Consulate in Khabarovsk immediately requested an explanation as to whether this was the authorities' official position or whether the governor was speaking merely as a private citizen. After all, these are two islands which do not fall under the demarcation process.

"Current work on the border is extremely badly timed," I. Kondaurov, the well-known Amur Region local historian, believes. "The population is worried about the future of its dachas on Amur islands, while sovkhoz leaders are worried about agricultural land, which we are short of as it is. At any rate, it is now necessary to specify a joint system for water use in the Amur Basin and to make changes to the demarcation procedure so as to ensure that disputes do not turn into a bone of contention which could be an excuse for tension between the two states."

Foreign Ministry Pledges Aid to Georgia

LD0610082093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Despite its own internal difficulties, Russia seeks to help Georgia to pass through a hard period in its history. This has been stated by the director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's information and press department, Grigoriy Karasin.

Now that Zviadists have captured the major Black Sea port of Poti, there is only enough flour for two days in Tbilisi.

Troop Withdrawal Talks With Latvia Stalemated

PM0610085193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Gromak: "No One Wanted To Give Way. Latest Round of Russian-Latvian Talks Ends in Tie"]

[Text] Having resumed after an eight-month gap, the latest round of Russian-Latvian talks has ended in Jurmala. Latvia was represented there by a virtually new delegation. However, its demands remained the same. Latvia insisted on Russian troops being withdrawn from its territory by the end of the year. Russian delegation head Sergey Zotov considers this timeframe unrealistic. Three months remain until the end of the year, and it is physically impossible to sign and ratify a treaty in that time. Russia will be able to withdraw its troops from Latvian territory only by the end of 1994, and only then if it keeps a number of installations of strategic importance and if there are social guarantees for former servicemen and Defense Ministry pensioners.

A number of points relating to the text of the main treaty were clarified during the talks. A number of secondary documents were also signed: a treaty on travel by both countries' citizens to the second country, a treaty on border crossing concessions for residents of border areas, and a consular convention.

It is obvious even to the naked eye that the young Latvian delegation is dragging its feet waiting for Latvia's president to return from the United States, obviously in the hope that Russia will agree to make concessions under pressure from third countries. In this connection Russian delegation head Sergey Zotov said at the news conference on the results of the talks that Latvia is vainly harboring illusions about pressure on Russia. It is a question of Russia's interests, and Russia will not make concessions.

Ukraine Urged To Transfer Nuclear Charges

LD0510224793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 5 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 5 TASS—Russia expressed its concern on Tuesday over the way Ukraine stores decommissioned nuclear charges and urged it to transfer the warheads to Russia.

Spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Tuesday that Russian nuclear experts had checked, upon a Ukrainian request, the technical state of nuclear charges stored near the city of Pervomaysk.

The number of nuclear charges in dumps exceeded the permissible amount by 6-8 times and the temperature there grew by 1-2 degrees and the level of radioactive background also increased as a result. The technical servicing of nuclear warheads is carried out with violations of the time of work because of the absence of spare parts, according to Karasin.

The spokesman urged Ukraine to transfer decommissioned nuclear charges to Russia for dismantling and utilisation.

It is necessary to urgently implement the Russian-Ukrainian agreement on control over missile complexes of strategic forces which would avert further aggravation of the situation with nuclear charges in Ukraine, he added.

Statement on UNPROFOR Mandate in Croatia

LD0510204293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1748 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Belgrade, 5 Oct (TANJUG)—We publish the integral text of a statement by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Security Council Resolution 871 extending UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Force] mandate by another six months.

The following is the text of the statement sent to TANJUG by the ambassador of the Russian Federation in Belgrade:

"The UN Security Council passed a resolution on 4 October 1993 extending UNPROFOR's mandate in the former Yugoslavia. In accordance with this document, the UN peace forces will remain in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Macedonia through to 31 March 1994, after which the Security Council will reconsider the issue.

An agreement has thus been reached to continue UNPROFOR's presence in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Their presence is of vital importance for preventing conflicts, contributing to the negotiating process, and for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

During the consultations before the resolution was passed, there have been attempts to link the issue of extending UNPROFOR's mandate—and, on a wider plane, the resolution of Croatia—with the sanctions which the Security Council has imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY], whose gradual lifting, simultaneous with reaching a solution in Bosnia, the Russian Federation advocates. In our opinion, such links are not in line with earlier decisions by the UN Security Council, and they do not take into consideration the role which the FRY has recently played.

We are pleased to see that the letter by FRY Prime Minister Radoje Kontic confirms that the FRY supports the UN peace plan for the Republic of Croatia, that the FRY wants all sides to respect the UN peace plan, and that the secretary general may count on the FRY Government's full support and contribution.

During the consultations a formulation was adopted, whereby the actions by the parties involved, leading toward the implementation of all relevant UNSC [UN Security Council] resolutions—including the resolutions referring to the UN peace plan for the Republic of Croatia—will be taken in account during discussions on the complete normalization of relations between the international community and the parties involved. This formulation should in no way be understood as a unilateral threat or an attempt to create a direct link. [sentence as received]

When saying this, we also take into account the guarantees given by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, that official Zagreb does not believe that the resolution is directed against Belgrade, but that it implies the responsibility of all sides, including the Republic of Croatia, for the implementation of the peace plan in Croatia. The document adopted by the UNSC should not be unnecessarily dramatized and misunderstood by any of the sides. In particular, it should not lead to any wrong retaliatory steps."

Radio Comments on IAEA Resolution on DPRK

SK0610030693 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev; from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] On 1 October, the General Assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which representatives from the 71 nations attended, demanded that cooperation between Pyongyang and the IAEA be immediately resumed.

As a part of the Pyongyang-IAEA cooperation, the DPRK should accept the international inspections of its nuclear facilities. The IAEA General Assembly's resolution is full of suspicions that the DPRK is developing nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang has only (?suspended) its March decision of withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. However, Pyongyang has not yet revealed what attitude it will, in the future, assume about its decision for withdrawal from the treaty.

Even though the DPRK delegates and IAEA delegates held talks in early September, an agreement related to the issue of nuclear inspections has not been reached.

Since December 1991 [as heard], the North-South dialogue to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula has been suspended. In view of such facts, the IAEA has adopted the resolution on inspection of the North's nuclear facilities.

However, no one can force the DPRK to accept their will. The IAEA finds a way out of a position of a particular country. The IAEA should not forget that its resolution should not be a political (word indistinct) against a country. That is, the resolution is nothing but a measure to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Some countries have been suspicious that Pyongyang has developed nuclear weapons. To dissipate the suspicion, Pyongyang should accept the international nuclear inspections and other measures.

EC To Accelerate Talks on Cooperation Treaty

PM0610122193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Oct 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "EC Prepared to Make Concessions to Russia"]

[Text] Paris—The EC leaders—by way of self-criticism—admit that the West has not yet done everything in its power to assist the process of democratization and reforms in Russia.

"The Community and its member states again express their support for the Russian president," a statement adopted in Luxembourg by the 12 states' foreign ministers says. Expressing regret in connection with the loss of life, they stressed that "elements hostile to the process of democratization, who provoked the disturbances in the capital," were responsible for this. "In these circumstances, the use of force against the White House was inevitable," Douglas Hurd, head of the British foreign policy department, stressed.

The 12 EC states also announced their intention to accelerate the talks with Moscow and conclude a treaty with Russia on partnership and cooperation before the end of this year.

To that end the president of the EC Commission and the premier of Belgium—the country that is currently chairing the EC—will go to Moscow in the next few weeks. "As a mark of solidarity with the population of Moscow," the 12 states have earmarked 300,000 ECU ($345,000) to provide medical assistance to the wounded.

The partnership treaty, which will open up the prospect of creating a free trade zone between them, was supposed to be signed back in June 1993. The EC has concluded similar treaties with several East European countries in recent years.

But this was stalled by disagreements over several points, which they have still not managed to overcome. For instance, Russia, in particular, demanded that it be granted certain privileges. In turn, the EC insisted that Moscow observe the international antidumping norms and wanted to use protectionist measures to guard against imports of aluminum, steel, and some other Russian goods.

Following the suppression of the rebellion, West Europe is prepared to make concessions. On behalf of the Community, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes said: "We are at President Yeltsin's disposal."

Changed NATO Stand Evokes 'Bewilderment'

PM0510145793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Oct 93 First Edition p 5

[Yuriy Kovalenko report: "European Discontent Over Moscow's Protest Against NATO Expansion"]

[Excerpts] Paris—We reported in IZVESTIYA's Saturday [2 October] issue that Boris Yeltsin, who a little over a month ago did not object to Poland's admission to NATO, has suddenly changed his position and argued against Russia's former Warsaw Pact allies becoming members of the North Atlantic alliance. [passage omitted]

Moscow's review of its approach toward the question of NATO's expansion has caused bewilderment in NATO circles and vigorous protests in East European capitals. At best it is a sign, LE MONDE notes, that Yeltsin does not have room to maneuver in relations with conservative circles and the military establishment. [passage omitted]

Conjecturing about what compelled Moscow to change its position, Western observers evaluate it as an unsuccessful attempt to prevent its former vassals from joining NATO. In their opinion this move will not only fail to achieve the desired aim, but could also complicate relations between Russia and its neighbors. Neither is

the West going to share the burden of "guaranteeing the security" of East Europe with Russia, which currently has so many problems within the country and in nearby foreign countries.

Chernomyrdin Meets With Armenian Counterpart

NC0410152793 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] On his way back to Yerevan from Washington, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan is paying a short visit to Moscow. He met Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today. Grant Bagratyan expressed condolences for the victims from the events in Moscow, and expressed the hope that the measures taken would enable speedy stabilization in the Russian capital.

The prime ministers discussed Armenian-Russian relations, in particular the speedy dispatch of goods from Armenia in accordance with the interstate and clearing agreements, the use of the interstate credit allocated by Russia, and the need to speed up the signing of the interstate agreements on valuable metals and stones.

Following this meeting, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin signed interstate agreements on air transportation, cartography, and [word indistinct].

Material Resources Minister Vahan Melkonyan and Feliks Mamikonyan, the Armenian permanent representative in Russia, took part in the meeting on the Armenian side.

The Armenian prime minister and the members of the Armenian delegation will return to Yerevan tonight.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Armenia

MK0510140293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Oct 93 p 2

[Konstantin Smirnov report: "New Agreements With Armenia. A New Type Ruble Union Fears No Tanks"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Not even the tragic events in Moscow on 3-4 October stopped the process of developing economic integration within the framework of the recently formed economic union of CIS countries. In addition to discussing the problems of merging their two monetary systems and using the Russian ruble in Armenia, Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Grant Bagratyan signed intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in the field of air transportation, land surveying, and cartography during yesterday's Russian-Armenian talks.

Given the importance of signing bilateral agreements on air transportation and cartography by the Russian and Armenian heads of government, the urgency of this intergovernmental meeting was caused by at least two fundamental reasons. First, it was necessary for the Russian side to demonstrate that, despite the armed standoff between the two branches of power in Moscow, it is business as usual for the government. In addition, according to Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan's visit to Moscow, during which the two sides determined and recorded their position on political questions, signifies that CIS countries side with Russia's president and government.

Second, the Armenian governmental delegation was not interested in delaying intergovernmental talks on questions of standardizing the principles of regulating the credit, monetary, and hard currency policies of the sides on the basis of Russian legislation. It is extremely important for Armenia to expedite the negotiating process, otherwise the prospects of getting rubles in cash (nearly 2 billion rubles for the last quarter of 1993) may be delayed indefinitely.

Ministry Source Reports No Plans To Withdraw From Treaty

LD0610133193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1207 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Oct—The Russian side regards "as urgent the question of bringing the practice of the treaty on limiting conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe into line with the military-political realities as they now exist for Russia." Of course, we are not proposing to depart from or to renounce this treaty, but it is quite clear that "certain amendments" are needed here.

This opinion was expressed today by a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry when asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on reports in the Western media that Moscow "is threatening to depart from the treaty if the operation of some of its provisions is not halted."

The problem here is not so much "in the language of the treaty, itself, but rather in the practice of applying its provisions that has arisen to date," the source noted. The treaty was signed in 1990 at a time when the Soviet Union still existed. It determined, in part, the number of tanks, artillery pieces, and other armaments both for NATO member countries and for the former Warsaw Treaty allies in the area "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

The Russian side intends to discuss this question both at the Vienna forum of the CSCE for cooperation in the security sphere and on a bilateral basis with the countries that are party to this treaty.

Political Issues

Security Council Discusses Military Doctrine

LD0610104193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, October 6 (TASS)—The Russian National Security Council is meeting in the Kremlin with President Boris Yeltsin in the chair to discuss the main provisions of the military doctrine of the Russian Federation.

In opening the meeting, Boris Yeltsin said, "We must adopt a military doctrine at last". The adoption of the doctrine has been put off repeatedly, and Yeltsin called for putting an end to further postponements.

He told Security Council members to be ready with their remarks and proposals by Friday which will then be considered by a working Security Council to finalise the draft in time for the next full-scale meeting of the council.

The president's first aide Viktor Ilyushin told journalists that the council will hold its full scale meeting on October 15, after the president returns from Japan.

The Security Council is now hearing Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's report on the main provisions of Russia's military doctrine.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors, as usual. The presidential press office is expected to issue a press release on its results.

Grachev Delivers Report

LD0610110293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] A session of the Security Council of the Russian Federation took place in the Kremlin today. Our observer, Yuliy Semenov, was present at the opening of the session. I will pass the microphone to him:

[Semenov] Good day. The session was chaired, as usual, by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. A full quorum was gathered. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, First Deputy Prime Ministers Gaydar and Shakhray, Deputy Prime Minister Fedorov, and Security Council Secretary Lobov were there. The power ministers and the key ministers were there.

Everyone noted that the new Procurator General Kazannik was present for the first time. He felt a bit embarrassed, but (?everyone there) congratulated him in a friendly way. So, what happened? It was expected—everyone said and Mayak included—that they would be discussing the events of the past few days in the Security Council. However, the president immediately made it clear that life goes on and that we should not look back. He submitted for discussion a planned item—planned earlier—on the basic tenets of a military doctrine for Russia. One can, of course, see the link between the military doctrine and the events of recent days.

The president was most emphatic in what he said and in his tone and in the way he ran the session. He said that there had been enough delaying and putting off discussion of a military doctrine and proposed that they hear a report from Grachev, take a couple of days for comments from members of the Security Council, and then a small group would approve the basic tenets of the doctrine. The next session will be held on 15 October. He said that sessions are usually held on Wednesdays, but he will still be in Japan on Wednesday, and that Friday, 15 October, the members of the Security Council will sign the military doctrine.

Everyone took note of the emphatic conduct—the dynamic behavior—of the president. He even used the expression—I propose—as if it were an order. I think anyone who sees the opening of the session on television will remark on this. I will confine myself to that much information for the time being. On completion of the session, once the documents have been worked through, there will probably be a report from the press service on the results.

New Russian Prosecutor General Profiled

LD0610110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0814 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Nikolay Semenenko]

[Text] Moscow, October 6 (TASS)—President Yeltsin issued a decree on October 5, appointing Aleksey Kazannik as a new prosecutor-general of the Russian Federation.

Kazannik, born in 1941, an ethnic Ukrainian, is a graduate of the Irkutsk State University, doctor of sciences (law), professor of the Omsk State University, a specialist in state and ecological law.

Between 1989 and 1992 Aleksey Kazannik was people's deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) and a member of the USSR parliamentary committee for economy and a rational use of natural resources.

His previous post was chairman of the committee for the nationalities policy at the administration of the Omsk region. Kazannik has been a member of the presidential council since February 1993.

Council of Ministers To Meet on 7 Oct

LD0610092593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Oct—It is expected that the Presidium of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers will hold

a regular meeting on Thursday. According to the preliminary agenda, it will discuss a draft of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, a draft of a purpose-oriented program for the development of fisheries and the fishing industry, and certain matters concerning road transport services.

Economic Issues

Gaydar, Yavlinskiy on Economic Situation

PM0510145193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Lyubov Zhilyayeva and Sergey Razin report: "Economy of the Week. Can't Rampant Prices Be Curbed?"—from the BIZNES-KONTAKT section]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar:

"Although it is better to avoid drastic fluctuations in the ruble exchange rate, it would be foolish and wasteful for the treasury to keep it at the summer level. By the fall the financial system was overheated since it had been pumped full of money in July and August.

"Regrettably back in the summer, when populist decisions on various concessions and subsidies were made, another substantial bread price hike was preordained. Of course, that will be a very painful step, but without it we run the risk of sliding into real hyperinflation.

"The government's general line in financial policy is this—to cut budget spending and abolish the state order and export duty on agricultural produce. There must be free trade on the food market at balanced supply and demand prices. What is more, we will do everything we can to ensure the general liberalization of foreign trade and, in particular, exports. Only a truly regulated market mechanism stabilizes the rate of exchange and the economy as a whole."

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy:

"Economic questions cannot now be resolved properly until the political situation is settled. It is hard for me to separate forecasts from hope and I can only now hope that the 'White House' situation will end peacefully. I do not think that either Rutskoy or Khasbulatov are now autonomous figures. They are surrounded by suspicious characters at least. The situation can be peacefully salvaged by complying with two conditions: First, by totally and immediately disarming the 'White House' and, second, by guaranteeing that the 'parliamentarians' will not be arrested and interned.

"While the politicians argue, we can watch the economy developing in a totally uncontrolled way: No one is directing it—no one is standing in its way or providing a helping hand."

Here is a forecast for the future: "We have room for inflation to develop. The repercussions of the grain purchases will be felt in October or November. In this situation the government must, first, prevent inflation from getting out of control and, second, prevent the financial system as such from collapsing."

Yavlinskiy believes that today rampant prices cannot be controlled, apart from oil prices. "I am fundamentally opposed to price regulation today and in the future. It is better not to be distracted. Prices can and must be controlled by competent budgetary and financial policy. In this respect it is a good thing that Gaydar and Fedorov, who understand these matters, are in the government.

"As for the regions' economic independence, that is a myth. Ukraine's experience is a graphic example of that. But political accord in the regions is of crucial significance."

Government Prepares Economic Priorities for 1994

LD0610115993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The RIA news agency reports that the Russian Government is currently drafting a plan of priority measures for the implementation of economic reform next year. Among other things, the plan envisages the liberalization of foreign trade and the grain and fuel markets. It also provides for a program to rectify the country's finances and reform the financial system, based on the establishment of normal budgetary relations between the federal government and the regions.

Soskovets Warns Against Government Loans

PM0610083993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Statement by Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets under the "Economy" rubric: "We Cannot Extricate Ourselves From the Crisis Without Changing People's Mentality"]

[Text] When analyzing the state of affairs in the economy, we must be objective and not scare ourselves; we must consider new economic realities. The majority of our economic leaders, whose consciousness was formed in completely different conditions, try even today to resolve problems by pressuring the government and ministries. This is unrealistic, to say the least. Therefore, when we discuss various programs at sessions of the Commission for Operational Questions, we try also to influence the mentality of economic leaders. Producers today should not keep knocking on the government's door, endlessly asking for credits to develop their enterprises or awaiting instructions, and so on. Players in economic ties can today organize their relations independently by making correct use of the market mechanisms which already exist. Of course, there are many shortcomings in the activity of our banking system

or the Ministry of Finance, but that is a separate topic. It is important to understand that it is criminal to give credits for mismanagement, negligence, or unnecessary output. Otherwise we will go on ruining ourselves and wondering why, despite our huge potential, things are going so badly in the economy.

Finance Official Views Inflation, Deficit

AU0510163293 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 5 Oct 93 p 29

[Report by Barbara Schwepcke: "Also a Controversy Over the Budget Deficit"]

[Text] Munich, 4 October—The controversy over the budget deficit was one of the factors that triggered the conflict between President Yeltsin and the Russian Parliament. The stabilization of prices is one of the most important tasks for the government, Russian Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Kazmin stated in an interview with SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG. For this purpose, the budget deficit had to be reduced. The parliament, however, wanted to increase it.

Andrey Kazmin regards the stabilization of the inflation rate at 20 percent as "a small success." Even 29 percent in August was better than 50 percent at the beginning of the year when Russia, according to Kazmin, "was on the brink of hyperinflation." A certain success in the policy was already perceptible: "After all, until the coup, the external value of the ruble [R] had been stable for three and a half months." Since July, Kazmin has been responsible for the monetary and credit policy in the Moscow Finance Ministry, and he mentions the raising of the discount rate as one of the most important recent anti-inflation measures: "When the political crisis exploded, the Central Bank was put under the government's control by a decree and called for the raising of the discount rate to 200 percent."

Kazmin mentions "greater control of the monetary and loan relations with the CIS states" as the second important measure. Kazmin stresses that the total amount of loans was fixed at R800 billions in April. So far, only one-eighth of them has been taken; they all are linked to the dollar exchange rate and interest is paid on them according to (the Western interbank rate) libor plus 1 percent.

Kazmin mentioned "budget discipline" as the third point. The present conflict between the president and the parliament is also a conflict between the policy of combating inflation and the policy of fiscal expansion. The year 1993 is almost over, and a budget plan for the year has not been adopted yet. Instead, the government presented quarterly budgets. Kazmin: "The cause of the controversies is that the parliament pursued a very aggressive populist policy and wanted to index all pensions and wages." However, the government draft provided for a deficit increase of 20 percent of the budget at the most, equivalent to 11 percent of GNP. The parliament's proposals would have led to a deficit of 50 percent of the budget. Finance Minister Boris Fedorov refused to introduce the budget adopted by the parliament, he said.

Kazmin quoted a study where the Finance Ministry compared Russia with Ukraine. Thus, skeptics of the anti-inflation policy in the Economics Ministry, who—as it is practiced in Ukraine—want to support the Russian economy by state intervention, were checkmated. "In July, the budget deficit was 12.3 percent of the GNP in Ukraine and 5.7 percent in Russia; as compared to January 1992, prices increased 92 times in Ukraine and 24 times in Russia; in Russia the average monthly wages are three times as high as in Ukraine." In Kazmin's opinion, the most interesting point is the national income: As compared to last year, it decreased 11 percent in Ukraine and 16.3 percent in Russia.

In answer to a question about unemployment, which, according to the report, is 0.3 percent in Ukraine and 1 percent in Russia, Kazmin said: "There is much hidden unemployment. We expect 8-9 percent next year." Therefore, a social network must "be further developed." Kazmin admits that this will increase the budget deficit even more and thus foment inflation: "These are the costs of transition."

Fuel Ministry Plans To Deal With Debtors

PM0510135193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Yegor Druzenko: "Power Workers Refuse to Loan Fuel"]

[Text] One of the largest consumers of centralized credits—the Russian Ministry of Fuel and Energy—is preparing to receive its latest loan. Its size is presumed to be about 1.3 trillion rubles [R]—if the Ministry of Fuel and Energy's request is satisfied by the government commission for questions of credit policy.

According to Deputy Minister Anatoliy Kozyrev, this sum is the minimum necessary just for the priority needs of the fuel and energy complex. Today they include the import of petroleum products to regions of the Far North, the procurement of fuel for power stations, and financial accounts with nuclear electric power stations.

And so yet again a sector which is highly profitable throughout the world intends to ask for money. The main reason for this is nonpayments: As of 1 September the debts of fuel purchasers were in excess of R5.7 trillion. Of these R1.06 trillion are accounted for by republics of "nearby foreign parts." Over 50 percent of this sum (R3.5 trillion) consists of overdue payments. Those are the figures from expert assessments which in reality could be somewhat understated since the Russian Committee for Statistics does not give exact figures for overdue payments.

Today last year's situation is in fact being repeated (by the end of summer 1992 the debts of the fuel and energy

complex' partners were assessed at R600 billion). The sector has managed to obtain some of this money while some has remained unpaid. To judge by the speed with which nonpayments are snowballing, this fall we should expect no improvement: There will be nonpayments, credits, and an increase in debts. Only they will all be bigger.

But to all appearances the Ministry of Fuel and Energy does not intend to remain for long in this vicious circle. A real way out could be tougher relations with fuel purchasers. In Kozyrev's opinion the first and most essential step should be to introduce prepayments for fuel. In addition warnings could be introduced (after warnings the purchaser has 15-20 days left to pay the money) and the selective "rolling" cessation of deliveries of energy carriers to debtors.

Of course before embarking on these measures, the government has to decide which enterprises from the debtors' ranks to close, which to sell through the auction system, and which to subsidize from the budget. Incidentally, there are many of the latter in the coal sector. According to the calculations of Ministry of Fuel and Energy specialists, the closure of just one small mine in Vorkuta will cost R45 billion (and throughout Russia 40 lossmaking mines must be closed). To avoid spending huge sums there is some point in subsidizing [illegible] enterprises.

For that, in turn, additional sources for swelling the state budget are needed. In the short term, the Ministry of Fuel and Energy promises, the credits which are being requested could be such a source. Its specialists are convinced that if today the government earmarks R400 billion for commissioning energy establishments, next year the return on this money will be approximately R700 billion—in the form of budget revenue—and $200 million in the form of export payments.

As for the tough terms such as prepayment and the cessation of deliveries, they will undoubtedly cause powerful dissatisfaction among the fuel and energy complex' biggest partners (agriculture, heavy industry, transport services). But prepayment is not the only chagrin to await them. As Aleksandr Samusev, deputy minister of fuel and energy, stated, the increase in prices for energy carriers will continue. Here the growth rates for the price of gas will obviously outstrip inflation.

It is hard to say exactly how much prices will increase in the immediate future. But if we are speaking of the longer term, in the estimation of one competent ministry expert it looks like this. At present the price index for gas is equal to eight compared to the December 1992 level. By the end of next year it will increase to 58. Guideline indicators in oil extraction were 5.2 and 25 respectively, in electrical power engineering 4.3 and 21 and in the coal industry five and 20.

The prices policy that the Fuel Ministry intends to pursue is ultimately geared toward creating a mechanism of free prices for nonmonopolized resources (oil, oil products, coals that are a source of energy), and we control prices for the "natural monopolies," which includes the systems of gas, electricity, and heat supply.

Superconductivity Developments Shown

PM0510132793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1215 GMT 23 Sep 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent; from the "M-Trust" program]

[Text] [Video shows laboratory scenes] The discovery of high-temperature superconductivity has attracted heightened interest in this phenomenon on the part of scientists and specialists working in the sphere of solid state physics, and in particular scientists at the Institute of Steel and Alloys problem-solving laboratory working on the sythesis of materials with new physical properties.

The seeming simplicity of the synthesis of cermet superconductors gave rise to optimistic hopes of obtaining current-conducting products at the boiling point of liquid nitrogen (minus 196 degrees Celsius). However, nature does not yield its secrets easily. The complexity of the task is explained by the fact that only materials in which strictly defined atomic planes of crystals are aligned parallel to the direction of the current can conduct current in magnetic fields. Using the method of quenching high-temperature melt in conjuction with the formation of metastable, amorphous materials [metod zakalki rasplava ot vysokikh temperatur v sovokupnosti s formirovaniyem metastabilnykh amorfnykh materialov], it is possible to obtain cermets in an initial state in which it is possible to control the crystallization processes. It is possible reliably to control the process of the formation and steered growth of crystals, determining the size of the crystals, their texture, and physical properties by means of a crucible-free process using arc lamps with light beam concentrators as the source of heat. This method makes it possible to conduct the crystallization of amorphous, linear products [amorfnyye dlinnomernyye izdeliya], both in a solid state, and partially liquid and liquid states, and also products with a ceramic core in a refractory sheath. The aforementioned experimental technological methods have resulted in superconductor products in the shape of linear rods, pipes, tapes, and composite wires consisting of a cermet core housed, as a rule, in a silver sheath. Using the method of extrusion of amorphous cermet blanks, it is possible to obtain multistrand [mnogozhilnyy] current-conducting products, exploiting the unique property of the metastable material to undergo plastic deformation at temperatures of 300 to 400 degrees Celsius. [video shows laboratory experiments, equipment, materials in question]

Military and Space Issues

'Raduga' Satellite Launched From Baykonur

PM0610085593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Proton Launched"]

[Text] At 2006 hours, Moscow time, Russia's Military Space Forces launched a Proton heavy carrier rocket carrying a Raduga space communications apparatus from the launch complex (site 81) of the Baykonur Cosmodrome. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Military Space Forces Press Center that the satellite is being controlled by the Main Center for the Testing and Control of Spacecraft (Golitsino-2), which is structurally a part of the Military Space Forces.

This was the 210th launch since 16 July 1965, when a carrier rocket of this type was launched for the first time.

Space Control Center's Work Described

PM0610104593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0915 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent on Golitsyno-2 space center and including interview with General Anatoliy Zapadinskiy, chief of the Main Spacecraft Test and Control Center; from the "Poligon" program]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent over video of space and missile launches] Few people know that a "Seven-Day Nuclear War" broke out in the summer of 1982. This was the codename of an operation staged by the former Soviet Union, which comprised the simultaneous launch of several ICBM's, placing two spacecraft in orbit, and hitting a target satellite in space. The U.S. side was dumbfounded and provoked into developing the Strategic Defense Initiative, which was announced by President Reagan in 1983. On our side the operation was prepared by top secret people.

[Zapadinskiy] Generally speaking, this group of people was not all that secret, and of late everything that can be told has been told so that people in our country know on what their money, paid as taxes, is being spent in the sphere of space exploration.

[Correspondent over video of woodland and space center] This is not the taiga, but the very heartland of Russia, a small city 40 km from Moscow with a population of 25,000, a closed city to this day. It also has a proper name, but for the time being we will refer to it as "Golitsyno-2." The people who live and work here are continuing—at a different level—the work of those who 36 years ago, on 4 October 1957, prepared and carried out the launch of the Earth's first artificial satellite. [video shows city and exterior of space center]

[Zapadinskiy] That was a major breakthrough. This breakthrough was achieved by our wonderful people not long after the war, thanks to their enthusiasm and courage. They embarked on this work a month after the establishment of our unit, living in dugouts, without any housing at all, on the territory of the former Soviet Union as it then was. They did the work on the creation of both the Earth's first artificial satellite and the delivery vehicle. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent over video of pan shots of space center interior] General Anatoliy Zapadinskiy, 46 years of age, graduated from Kharkov Higher Command and Engineering School in 1969, worked his way up from chief of a radio and telemetry station to the post of one of the leaders of the military space forces. This meant moving house 15 times from one end of the country to the other. His son Andrey went to nine different schools. He graduated from two academies, including the General Staff Academy. None of his subordinates has ever been killed or tried during his time as commander of subunits and units. Such are the details of his military career.

Around 3,000 people are on duty daily at the Main Center, controlling almost 200 spacecraft. Following the disintegration of the Union, workloads have doubled. After a break of at most 48 hours, the military embark on another 24-hour shift. The operator at the console issues up to 1,000 commands per shift. The responsibility for each of these is very great. Therefore it is no accident that many people who work here have two degrees.

During its visit to this secret facility, the "Poligon" team was able to learn surprising details.

[Zapadinskiy] Space is a relatively complex sphere. A new sphere that man is mastering, or rather is only beginning to master. There are many interesting occurrences. I can say that one type of our spacecraft flies badly in July. It is incomprehensible why. There are no objective reasons for this. Space is full of riddles, not just up there, but also down here. It can happen that a station that has been known to function correctly 30 minutes earlier [words indistinct] from a spacecraft, suddenly starts malfunctioning and transmitting information that should not even be in the memory of these machines.

[Correspondent over interior of center, various equipment, lit up wall pannels] Military intelligence in space, ensuring television broadcasting throughout CIS territory, prospecting for mineral resources, cartography, search for missing people and ships, navigation services, assistance in efforts to localize natural disasters, all types of communications—this is the incomplete list of the tasks carried out by military space forces.

[Zapadinskiy] In my opinion, the (?Main Center) is a prototype of the army of the future—we carry out very complex tasks with a small number of people, we enhance the effectiveness of the operations of all the branches of the Armed Forces, our work is based on the extensive use of computer equipment, new technologies, and new systems. We do not get involved in politics. Our task, our main task, as I have said before, is to control spacecraft. What the officers want is stability in the country, that is to say stability in the political sphere, and also in the economy, finally. It is necessary, finally, for our constitutional organs to clearly define what's what. So that officers, and servicemen in general, know clearly what their tasks are.

[Correspondent over video of space station] We will report on how military space forces are performing their

tasks at the Baykonur and Plesetsk cosmodromes and in the units of the Main Center in subsequent editions of the Poligon program. [video shows interview with Zapadinskiy interspersed with video of Golitsyno-2, exterior, interior of space center]

Defense Industry Conversion Problem Described

PM0510160793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent; from the "Business in Russia" program]

[Text] [Correspondent over video of signboard of Russian Federation Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry and production facilities at Voronezh mechanical plant] According to the Russian Federation Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, 770 enterprises of the former military-industrial complex are currently subject to conversion in Russia, with 160 either on the brink of grinding to a halt or standing idle.

The situation concerning defense industry scientists is causing particular concern. As a result of a wholesale reduction of military orders and lack of funding for research and development work, one-fourth of the intellectual potential has been lost.

In the opinion of Committee Chairman Viktor Glukhikh, the measures adopted by the government to stabilize the financial position of defense enterprises have not been able to arrest the production slump which reached 20 percent in 1992.

At the same time, despite the package of 14 sectoral programs that have been drawn up, the Russian conversion program has still not been endorsed by parliament. The preliminary estimate of the cost of implementing these programs in 1993 totals 554 billion rubles [R]. However, guaranteed financial support has been promised for only two of these programs—the program for the development of civil aviation and the rebirth of the Russian fleet. The current deficit for conversion needs totals R80 billion. The military-industrial complex must be turned into a hard-currency-earning sector, Viktor Glukhikh believes. According to expert estimates, the demand for Russian military hardware could total between $25 billion and $30 billion a year. However, the volume of sales is constantly falling. Let me remind you that seven years ago the former Soviet Union's share in the total volume of arms sales in the world stood at 38 percent, against the United States' 30 percent. At present, Russia's share has declined to 17 percent, while the share of the United States has increased to 58 percent. Viktor Glukhikh believes that the conversion mechanism should be shaped as follows: First, it is necessary to draw up a list of enterprises of the former military-industrial complex whose output is in demand in the world market. These enterprises must be provided with state orders, advantageous taxation, legal aid, and other incentives. On the other hand, enterprises whose output is not in demand should be subjected to forced conversion, that is switched to the production of civilian output, and ultimately privatized. [Video shows Voronezh mechanical plant facilities and footage of recent Moscow air show and Nizhniy Novgorod arms fair with weapon demonstrations]

Regional Affairs

Northern Fleet Facing Cash Shortage Problems

PM0510154793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Oct 93

[Report by G. Smirnova in Murmansk; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Smirnova] [video shows ships] They perform their service facing the ocean. This is what people say about the personnel of the youngest and most powerful operational-strategic formation in the Russian Armed Forces—the Northern Fleet. The Northern Fleet seamen find their service particularly difficult today. This is not so much a question of everyday life as a seaman—they are used to that—as the shortage of funds. The fleet owes several billion rubles to the ship repair workers and enterprises supplying petroleum, fuel oil, and fuel to the ships and garrisons. There is nothing with which to pay the constructors or the trade firms supplying the remote garrisons.

[M. Sviridov, assistant commander of the Red Banner Northern Fleet] The personnel are not receiving their pay on time. As of today, only 20 percent of the fleet's personnel have received their pay for September. And naturally, this is having an effect on the situation in military collectives. We need help and support in this sphere. [video shows port, ships, servicemen]

Report on Voronezh Plant's Success Since Privatization

PM0510151193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Sep 93

[From the "Business in Russia" program]]

[Excerpts] [video shows production facilities] A few years ago the Voronezh ferroconcrete component plant's claim to fame was that almost one-half of its workforce were former convicts, known as "khimiki," people who had been conditionally released [in return for agreeing to work on specific projects, usually in the chemical industry]. Naturally, there was a reason for this. The work here was hard, wages were low, and consequently there were not many people who wanted to work here. A year ago the enterprise became an open-type joint-stock company. Since then, a great deal has changed. [passage omitted]

Production, which had been declining since the beginning of perestroyka, has been restored to its former level. Work is under way, albeit with difficulties, to provide the workforce with housing. And that despite the fact

that considerable sums of money have been spent on retooling to which no attention had been paid in the previous 17 years. Incidentally, channeling of funds into replacing ageing equipment has not evoked dissatisfaction at the plant. [passage omitted]

Despite all the difficulties, workers at the ferroconcrete component plant are looking to the future with optimism. Their output—ferroconcrete components for industrial construction, road surfacing, and the construction of sociocultural facilities—is not stockpiled at the plant for long. This is because consumers are getting a high-quality product within short delivery periods. The joint-stock company's collective is prepared to supply anyone who expresses interest in their products. [video shows production facilities, output]

Digital Telephone Service Begins in St Petersburg

PM0610094393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Oct 93 First Edition p 8

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "First Digital Telephone Communications on Banks of Neva"]

[Text] St. Petersburg residents have gained the opportunity to use a reliable communications system which is independent of the city's telephone network and which is well up to high European and world quality standards.

Without exaggeration, the new type of services being offered to clients by the British-U.S.-Russian company Baltic Communications Ltd. can be called revolutionary in the sphere of developing local telecommunications. The user of digital communications does not have to acquire or lay a cable because this system uses cordless digital radio transmitters.

The first deputy general director of the "Paddy Millen" Company noted at the digital telephone network's official launch that St. Petersburg had taken an important step toward creating a reliable telecommunications infrastructure. Owners of the company's "communications cards" can not only telephone anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds but can also use a videotelephone, facsimile communications, and an electronic mail facility.

International Affairs

Official Hopes Russian 'Intrusion' Will Stop

LD0510210393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1709 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Leader of Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service Yuriy Sergeyev hopes that "Russia's open intrusion into Ukraine's inner affairs, in particular on the part of the executive power, will stop after the rebel in Moscow was suppressed." Speaking at a briefing in Kiev, he underlined that "there are several people in Yeltsin's team who were marching in the forefront of anti-Ukrainian policy."

Sergeyev also declared that "Ukraine is still not ready to speak about equal membership in the NATO." In his words, Russia is possibly the last country with which Ukraine has to agree to enter NATO or not.

The representative of the Foreign Ministry believes that there still exists "a vacuum of security" in Central and Eastern Europe. "We must look for a mechanism to fill this vacuum and to continue consultations on the future security concept in Europe. Russia's participation in this process is important and necessary," believes the leader of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's press service.

Sergeyev also reported that on October 4 Russian President Boris Yeltsin "proposed to postpone the summit of heads of CIS states from November for October and this proposal was adopted."

Meanwhile, when asked by Interfax to present his explanations, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya has failed to reaffirm this message. At the request of Interfax he had a conversation with the chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich. Shushkevich said that he does not know anything about Yeltsin's proposal.

Data on Fleet Property Redeployed to Russia

WS0510155293 Kiev UNIAN OHLYADY, KOMENTARI, PROHNOZY in Ukrainian 4 Oct 93 No 18

[Text] During 1992 and the beginning of 1993 while Ukrainian-Russian relations were exacerbated as a result of political disputes over the Black Sea Fleet issue, the Black Sea Fleet Command was gradually removing ships, machinery, and equipment from Ukrainian territory. A document obtained from confidential sources reveals only some undisputable facts. The shipping of the machinery and other Black Sea Fleet property mostly took place when Admiral Igor Kasatonov was the fleet's commander. It has become known that during that period, the Black Sea Fleet Motor Vehicle Repairs Plant No. 108 sold 72 trucks worth about 20 million rubles and 18 cars worth 454,000 rubles.

Twelve maritime reconnaissance aircraft SU-24 were redeployed from the air base Oktyabrske in the Crimea to the Baltic Fleet in 1992.

Fifteen attack aircraft SU-25 were redeployed from the Zhytomyr Oblast Ovruch air base to Russian territory.

Seven Mi-14PL, four Mi-8T, and two Mi-8NT helicopters were redeployed from the Crimean village of Kacha to Russia's village of Anapa at the beginning of 1993.

The large landing craft the Krymskyy Komsomolets was redeployed to Novorossiysk from the Isle of (Donuklan) in 1992.

Diving tender RWK-798 was redeployed from Sevastopol to Russia in November 1992.

Twelve encoding machines M-204 were shipped from the Isle of Mirnyy to Novorossiysk on 12 May 1992.

These figures demonstrate that under Kasatonov's consent, the fleet was stripped of property and military equipment worth 721,689,596 rubles (in 1992 prices).

There were attempts to sell military equipment even after Kasatonov was replaced from the post of commander and the fleet was subordinated to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. Some ten days before the Massandra summit, Russian Navy Commander in Chief Feliks Gromov issued order No. 074 and sent it to Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin. According to the order, a number of ships and submarines had to be written off. Thus, these vessels were not taken into account when the fleet's division was being discussed.

Ministry Denies Military Role in Abkhazia

WS0610100193 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 1 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Ukraine and the World" rubric: "We Do Not Fight in Abkhazia"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has disseminated a statement explaining Ukraine's position on the events in Abkhazia. Ukraine, underlines the statement, recognizes Abkhazia as part of the Georgian state. Journalists were told by Yuriy Serheyev, an employee of the Foreign Ministry's press center, that Ukrainian ships are not involved in military operations in Abkhazia. They are used exclusively for evacuating civilians from the conflict zone.

Ukraine To Remain UN Member Despite Debt

LD0510214193 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1352 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Washington—The information service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry reported on 5 October that our state's delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko is now in the U.S. capital. Ukrainian diplomats have secured our state's membership in the United Nations. Ukraine will not be expelled by the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly from the permanent members. Borys Hudyma, deputy head of

the Ukrainian delegation, said that Ukraine had contributed 6.5 million [currency not specified] to the UN annual budget as a payment on its debt. Borys Hudyma said this money was found as a result of certain foreign economy operations. The issue was not settled conclusively, and the contributions committee must still meet. Although Ukraine has found certain support and understanding among the world's diplomatic circles on the issue of the debt for 1991, which is to be settled by Russia as the legal successor to the USSR, the United Nations has not yet made a final decision.

During the evening of 4 October, Anatoliy Zlenko visited the U.S. Senate and took part in a detailed conversation on nuclear disarmament in Ukraine. U.S. participation in consultations to work out a common concept of European security and the Group of Seven's encouragement of Ukraine's integration in European structures were also discussed.

Ministry Denies Supplying Weapons to IRA

WS0610100493 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 1 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Ukraine and the World" rubric: "We Do Not Equip the IRA"]

[Text] The press service of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has denied reports by Czech media that Ukraine is allegedly supplying the IRA with weapons. The Foreign Ministry does not reject the possibility that the Ukrainian and Irish Mafias have established relations, but this is a matter to be addressed by crime-enforcement officials.

Plyushch Meets Japanese Bank Delegation

LD0610050293 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] As we have already reported, a group of well-known economists and consultants from the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan is in Kiev. They were received by Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Calling on the Japanese specialists on cooperation, the chairman of the Supreme Council, with his inherent frankness, told the guests about Ukraine without embellishment, about Ukraine as it is today—with its problems and troubles—about the establishment of our statehood, and naturally about paths into the future, the role and significance of the world community—including Japan—in Ukraine's rebirth and its national economy, and the establishment of civilized market relations.

Yes, Ukraine is a large state, and we are pleased to hold talks with it, noted in his turn Hiroshi Takeuchi, director of the Long-Term Credit Bank's research institute of Japan and the head of the delegation.

What are the prospects for cooperation? There was a lot of talk about this at the scientific symposium. Naturally there are prospects, and they are hopeful. So, despite there being a long distance between Japan and Ukraine, we believe that friendly relations between our countries will be mutually beneficial.

Shoji Suezawa, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Ukraine, took part in the conversation.

At the news conference, which took place subsequently, Volodymyr Pylypchuk, chairman of the commission for issues of economic reform and management of the national economy of the Supreme Council, and Vasyl Stolyarov, director of the institute of the economy of the Ministry of the Economy of Ukraine, introduced to journalists Japanese scientists of world-wide renown. The Japanese scientists, replying to questions, shared their knowledge, experience, and wisdom, relating how post-war Japan achieved its development today. And although they were careful as far as predictions in Ukraine were concerned, it was, believe me, extraordinarily interesting.

Ambassador to Canada To Resign

AU0610124493 Ivano-Frankivsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 28 Sep p 1

[Unattributed report: "Levko Lukyanenko Has Sent In His Resignation"]

[Text] Rumors to the effect that Levko Lukyanenko, Ukraine's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Canada, is going to leave his post have been confirmed.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet given any details, nor has it offered any comment on this occasion. Nor does the headquarters of the Ukrainian Republican Party have any details. Levko Lukyanenko had been chairman of that party before his appointment to the ambassadorial post.

National Affairs

Parliament Endorses New Government Members

LD0510193393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] On October 5, without any discussion, the Ukrainian Parliament endorsed the appointment of Andrey Vasilishin to the post of interior minister and Valeriy Gubenko to the post of chairman of the State Border Guard Committee.

Objections were advanced by the Commission for Economic Reform and Economic Management against the appointment of Grigoriy Pyatachenko to the post of finance minister. However, this appointment was also approved by the majority of the deputies.

Candidate to the post of chairman of the security service, Yevgeniy Marchuk, was asked many questions about paramilitary formations and organizations campaigning

for the separation of individual territories from Ukraine. Marchuk emphasized that the blank spaces in the legislation must be filled, all of which will put an end to the paramilitary formations similar to the radical nationalist Ukrainian Popular Self-Defense Army.

Speaking about the separatist organizations and their leaders, Marchuk said that legal action against them would be inexpedient because so far they are engaged in pure propaganda work. He said, however, that the Security Ministry keeps them within the range if its vision, which is far better than reprisals.

The majority of the deputies endorsed Marchuk's appointment. All of the newly-appointed cabinet members occupied the same posts in the Fokin and Kuchma governments.

The candidate to the post of defense minister is expected to be submitted to parliament on Thursday. The democratically oriented deputies did not approve of Konstantin Morozov's resignation from the post of defense minister. President Kravchuk explained that he had discussed Morozov's letter of resignation with the Defense Ministry leaders and district commanders who qualified Morozov's move as expedient.

Morozov resigned on October 4. He gave the reason for his resignation as being that in the current situation his candidacy would cause a split among the deputies.

Kravchuk on Morozov Resignation

LD0510224693 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Remarks by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at session of the Ukraine Parliament in Kiev, in response to question by Deputy Tetyana Yakheyeva on resignation of Former Ukrainian Defense Minister Morozov—live]

[Text] [Yakheyeva] Yakheyeva, 438th electoral district. Esteemed president, esteemed Ivan Stepanovych [Plyushch], esteemed colleagues. I would like to make this proposal—we are currently examining candidacies for the heads of the power industries, and I am entirely in agreement with Leonid Makarovych, who said that three or four months are needed in order for a minister to settle into a post, and one can agree with us reconfirming the heads of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the head of the Security Service of Ukraine. However, the question arises: if a crisis situation arises in a neighboring country, if the neighboring country is on the verge of a civil war, then is now the time for us to change the head of such a key ministry as the Ministry of Defense? Possibly at present we should preserve all the power structures in their places. Is this caused by some other reasons?

[Plyushch] Yes, I understand this to be a question to Leonid Makarovych.

[Yakheyeva] This is not so much a question as a proposal. We have a complex political situation on our external borders, and I have a proposal to reconfirm...

[Plyushch, interrupting] Everything is understood.

[Kravchuk] In accordance with the constitution, the minister of defense is a candidacy, agreement for confirmation of which is given by the Supreme Council. In accordance with this article of the Constitution, I submitted the name of Morozov to the Supreme Council. However, Kostyantyn Petrovych reported to me and asked for his candidacy to be removed from discussion by the Supreme Council, and argued appropriately. There was a fairly lengthy conversation, I want you to know about this.

I tried to convince Kostyantyn Petrovych that at the moment, at such a complicated time, we could hardly start to discuss a new candidacy for the post of minister of defense. But he said that, being guided by the situation which had arisen, and the confrontations in existence today, he did not want his candidacy to be at the center during the discussion of the political say situation, and did not want this to spread to the military.

On Monday morning [4 October], I assembled the entire command personnel of Ukraine's Armed Forces, the commanders of districts, commanders of corps, and commanders of the services, and consulted with them too. Kostyantyn Petrovych spoke, and they concluded that the decision of the minister of defense was the right one.

Thus I cannot, by means of my decree, appoint the minister of defense or leave him in his post when he has submitted a statement. That is the first thing; and second, when the Supreme Council has dismissed the whole government. I adopted decrees on those ministers belonging to the president's competency, and now you should decide on that. But I do not see the need to return to this issue, because Kostyantyn Petrovych Morozov has decided it himself.

More Appointments Endorsed

LD0610111093 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0816 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Excerpt] [no date as received] Kiev—On 5 October, deputies continued the discussion of candidacies for appointment to senior government posts, after an afternoon break at the eighth session of the Supreme Council. The appointment of Vasyl Onopenko to the post of justice minister and that of Anatoliy Kolos to the post of State Customs Committee chairman were endorsed.

It was decided that, in connection with Foreign Affairs Minister Anatoliy Zlenko's participation in the work of the UN General Assembly and consultations on candidacies for the post of defense minister still being held by the president, that the discussion of candidacies for these posts should be postponed. [passage omitted]

Procurator Views Activity of Regional UNSO

AU0610100293 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Passions Around Ukraine's National Self-Defense Organization"]

[Text] The procurator's office in Sumy started to examine whether the activity of the regional UNSO [Ukraines's National Self-Defense Organization] may be considered legal. Almost all members of that organization have been interviewed. They include students, pupils of vocational technical schools, young workers, and schoolchildren (aged between 15 and 25). No final conclusions have been made yet, but one of the officials of the Procurator's Office stated in an interview for the oblast radio that already, today, he has no doubt: the UNSO is an openly fascist organization. The actions by the Procurator's Office have caused much response among the town's public. In particular, representatives of the oblast national democratic forces, who do not generally support the UNSO, have stated that one can only be declared a fascist after court proceedings.

UNSO Leader Interviewed

AU0510122093 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 37 (118), Sep 93 p 5

[Interview with Viktor Melnyk, deputy chief commander of Ukraine's National Self-Defense, with Volodymyr Bilkey: "UNSO Members About Themselves"]

[Text] [Melnyk] We are nationalists. Nationalists do not have eternal enemies. They have eternal interests—the interests of the nation and of the state. That is why I do not have a genetic hatred for any person by virtue of that person's nationality. For me, all those people who help Ukraine are good and those who do harm to it are bad.

[Bilkey] When and for what purpose was the Ukrainian National Self-Defense [UNSO] created? What is the situation in it now?

[Melnyk] UNSO was created in order to defend Ukraine from a possible aggression and to conduct guerrilla actions if its territory happens to be invaded. The UNSO birthday accidentally coincided with the beginning of the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] coup on 19 August 1991. UNSO takes care of the patriotic indoctrination of young men and of all those groups of people who are able to act in an organized manner not only in extreme military situations, but also in cases of major industrial accidents or natural disasters. However, the existence of UNSO is very undesirable for some people. There is even no need to comment upon those claims that the Ministry of Justice had upon us during the registration. How come Ukrainian citizens are forbidden to prepare for defending their own land? UNSO today is a ramified infrastructure of organizations with a paramilitary structure and discipline. Besides, it takes care of the development of mutual support among Ukrainians even at an everyday-life level, especially in difficult times. Self-defense is necessary, because, today, state organs are not even able to defend themselves.

[Bilkey] Your goal is the defense of Ukraine, you are not after any material benefits for yourselves, and you risk your own lives for the sake of your fatherland, while, at the same time, in Ukraine, a group of dubious businessmen and entrepreneurs is getting richer by causing great damage to the people and the state....

[Melnyk] UNSO provides support, in terms of force, for the working people's movement. For example, when the impudent administration of enterprises prevents people from holding meetings and rallies. Of course, if these people turn to us for help. Businessmen also turn to us. However, we are not going to substitute law-enforcement organs. UNSO has different goals and, thank God, the atmosphere among us is healthy, and the people inclined to gain personal profit cannot remain among us. We exist on our own means and on donations. We do not protect those people who parasitize on the situation.

[Bilkey] Either in the parliament or on the pages of some newspapers, anti-Ukrainian talk starts from allusions to UNSO and from branding it as a "fascist organization."

[Melnyk] If, for example, the pro-Moscow ultras, Charodyeyev and Marchenko, consider UNSO to be their main enemy, this means that we stick in their throats and, therefore, we are on the right track. In calling us fascists, nobody has quoted a single fact or case confirming this accusation. For example, was there at least one terrorist act or something on our part that could be interpreted as a manifestation of racism?

[Bilkey] UNSO riflemen took part in combat actions in Georgia....

[Melnyk] At first, our observers were both in the Georgian and Abkhaz camps. There are signs of ethnic conflict between them. However, the most important thing is that, there, Russia fights for the possession of Black Sea ports. In fact, Georgia fights against Russia there. We did see Abkhazians in combat actions there, but, most frequently, we dealt with Russian volunteers or with the regular Russian Army.

We are ready to help any people who are in a situation similar to that in Ukraine. Thank God, there are no local conflicts in Ukraine, and they will not emerge unless there are instigations from outside. Russia claims that it acts everywhere in the role of a peacekeeper, but, in fact, wars are being waged with its money and its weapons. We hope that those same Georgians will help us in case of need.

We do not want war. We want peace and quiet. We want a normal state-building process in our country, in order that order finally prevails in it. For this, we make every effort. A social force is forming around UNSO, a force

that will put things in order. Then, the parvenu businessmen will not be able, that simply, to rob people of everything and fill their own pockets by taking advantage of the chaos. UNSO will reach everybody. Even those who have hidden stolen state money abroad (according to well-known specialists, there are at least $15 billion there).

If UNSO gets a credit of confidence from the people, we will do everything in order to justify it. We will see to it that law functions. If I am to blame, let me be punished in its name. Even for the president, there should not be an exception. However, lawlessness presently prevails. If somebody has money and power, the law is not for him. If you have no money, anything can be done to you.

[Bilkey] I saw your fighters in the Dniester Region....

[Melnyk] In the Dniester Region, we protected Ukrainians who constitute 70 percent there. When there only were Muscovites there, this created a broad springboard for putting pressure upon southern Ukraine. Rabid propaganda activity was conducted there: "The Russians are defending all Slavs!" When we came to the Dniester Region, they lost the monopoly on the defense of "all Slavs." Their Cossacks quickly began to run away to their homes. It became clear to everybody that, beside the "Russian spirit," there is also Ukrainian force.

Democratic Party Favors Presidential Government

LD0510192093 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1352 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Two issues were discussed at a meeting of the presidium of the Democratic Party of Ukraine's National Council on 4 October: The events in Moscow and preparations for the future parliamentary and presidential elections. A memorandum, "the four lessons of the bloody events in Russia" was adopted on the first issue. In particular, it says: "The armed clashes in Moscow that led to numerous human casualties have testified graphically before the whole world as to the dangers that lie in wait for the young democratic forces in the post-Communist states on the ruins of the empire." "The Democratic Party declares its resolute support for the constitutional strengthening of the presidential form of government, in a state where the president would not only be the national head of state, but would also have full executive power."

As Valeriy Kravchenko, deputy head of the party, told a UNIAN correspondent at a meeting of the presidium, an Electoral Committee has been formed led by Valeriy Chmyr, doctor of medicine and member of the presidium. The committee will be engaged in all issues that concern the elections.

Crimean Group Threatens 'Nuclear Sabotage'

WS0610094793 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 1 Oct 93 p 2

[Report attributed to RUKH-PRESS: "They Are Threatening Nuclear Sabotage"]

[Text] The Sevastopol branch of Rukh has described a recent episode of the "Studio Politics" program, which aired on local television, as yet another attempt by Crimean radical-chauvinistic circles to destabilize the situation on the peninsula. A man that identified himself as a liaison officer of the mysterious "Crimean Republican Army" read an ultimatum demanding Crimean sovereignty. The ultimatum was directed to Ukraine, Russia, the United Nations, and NATO, and was said to have been signed by the "Army's" Political Council. He clearly stated that nuclear power plants in western Ukraine are the organization's center of attention. The officer said that nationalism will be "terminated" and that "western Ukraine will disappear as a territory suitable for life."

Rukh members from Sevastopol expect appropriate authorities to conduct an investigation and bring an end to similar threats.

Furnace in Kryvyy Rih May Explode

AU0610095293 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 2 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Situation at 'Kryvorizhstal' [Kryvyy Rih Steel Plant] Is Close to an Emergency"]

[Text] The reduction of the deliveries of Russian gas may lead to yet another accident, this time at Europe's largest blast furnace, the No. 9 blast furnace of the "Kryvorizhstal" metallurgical combine. As stated by its director Stepan Tilha, one-half of the metallurgical production has been halted due to the shortage of gas. Today, the No. 9 blast furnace operates exclusively on metallurgical coke. According to specialists, the situation is very similar to that at the No. 7 blast furnace of the Dniprodzerzhynsk metallurgical combine [which exploded].

Belarus

Popular Front To Support Shushkevich at Next Session

WS0610132193 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 22 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by BELAPAN correspondent Ales Knyazyuk: "Opposition Supports Shushkevich"]

[Text] Nobody in Belarusian political circles doubts the fact that the majority of deputies will raise a vote of confidence in Stanislav Shushkevich at the upcoming Supreme Soviet session. What will the opposition's reaction be? A BELAPAN journalist asked this question to People's Deputy Syarhey Navumchyk, coordinator of the Belarusian Popular Front opposition in the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

[Navumchyk] The opposition deputies will again support the Supreme Soviet chairman. In fact, after the last session, Stanislav Shushkevich could and had to act more vigorously for the benefit of state sovereignty. Actually, in his last statements, he sounds more responsible before both his people and the democratic forces. Despite the fact that our point of view and that of Shushkevich differs quite a bit on a range of issues, on one issue we are of the same opinion—both parties wish to preserve Belarus as an independent and democratic state. In my opinion, Stanislav Shushkevich has understood that it will be impossible to go on flirting with the legislative majority and the official nomenclature. These people unanimously support calls for his dismissal. Only the Belarusian people and the democratic forces can secure his political future. I hope that Stanislav Shushkevich will use the time before the beginning of the regular Supreme Soviet session appropriately, and with complete understanding of the current situation.

Kebich Cited on Repaying Oil Debt to Russia

PM0510140793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "Belarus Will Not Survive Without Siberian Oil"]

[Text] Minsk—Despite the extremely serious financial situation, Belarus is doing everything it can to pay off its oil and gas debt to Russia in October.

This was announced by republic Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich at a session of the council of the Belarusian Science and Production Association. At the present time its oil debt to Russia runs to $70 million. A few months ago it was 350 million.

Even the "hotheads" have finally realized that the republic's economy is fully dependent on Russian energy resources. As soon as its eastern neighbor reduced supplies of "black gold" and shut off the gas valves, dozens of Belarusian enterprises came to a standstill and field work was stalled while it was practically in full swing.

Instead of the 11 million tonnes of oil envisaged by state quotas and licenses, as of today Russia has supplied a little over 8 million. Industrialists are not the only ones who are worried. What will the coming winter be like in houses and apartments if the fuel situation is so difficult?

Whether you like it or not, a fact is a fact. Without Russian oil and gas Belarus simply cannot survive. The mood here of late has therefore been strongly in favor of economic union, primarily among industrialists.

The market dictates its own terms: Oil must be paid for in full. This means, Kebich says, at prices close to the world level. He admitted that there was insufficient flexibility in the present situation regarding energy resources. The premier accepts criticism insofar as the state pledged to completely regulate payments for oil and gas without making demands of the consumer enterprises. But in the absence of Russian cash, only five or six dozen enterprises could deal with the commercial organizations supplying the oil and gas. However difficult it proved to be, the government therefore allocated state subsidies for energy resources. Hundreds of enterprises were thereby saved but today are unable to pay world prices.

Moldova

Parliament Stalemate on CIS Continues

MK0510142093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 61, 5 Oct 93 (signed to press 4 Oct) p 7

[Dmitriy Zhdannikov report under the "Moldova" rubric: "There Is No Alternative to Joining the CIS, Thinks President Mircea Snegur"]

[Text] The bulk of the deputy corps in the Moldovan Supreme Soviet has once again postponed its session until 6 October, never resuming it because of a lack of quorum. In the meantime, members of the parliament's presidium have been trying to find ways to overcome the crisis. Moldova's Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Viktor Pushkash stated in an interview with INTERFAX that during the break in the session, the presidium should work out a decision acceptable to the conflicting factions. In his opinion, a compromise could come in the shape of December elections to local power bodies and a referendum on major questions, including the main provisions of the new constitution.

"After that the parliament will be able to pass a law on elections on a multiparty basis, set a date for early elections tentatively for March next year, and continue its legislative activity until they are held," Pushkash said in his interview with INTERFAX. In his opinion, this decision could satisfy all the factions since the parliamentary majority insists on the immediate dissolution of the Supreme Soviet and the holding of early elections.

For its part, the opposition is seeking to preserve the present composition of the legislative body until the next elections in 1995.

"If the proposed option is rejected, the parliament will simply not be able to continue its activity and its fate will have to be decided either by the presidium or by the president or by holding a nationwide referendum," Pushkash stressed. He did not rule out the possibility that the Russian model of resolving the power crisis could be repeated in Moldova, although he pointed out that this is unlikely as "President Snegur will hardly decide to openly breach the current constitution."

Meanwhile, the president himself is holding conferences with representatives of political parties, movements, and deputies factions in search of a compromise. However, speaking on Friday 1 October on national television, Snegur openly sided with the position of the parliamentary majority, stating that as of this moment he does not see any alternative to Moldova's joining the CIS.

It should be recalled that the cause for the boycott of the regular session were precisely the results of the 15 September vote on the republic's entry into the commonwealth. At that time all preliminary polls showed that the parliament would pass a decision to accede to the Almaty agreement. The main argument in favor of joining the CIS was, naturally, the need to advance reforms by restoring economic links.

However, when they fell four votes short of passing a positive decision, the agrarian deputies walked out of the hall and have not reappeared at the session since then.

"The CIS provides a real chance in the very near future to achieve the desired stabilization and overcome the crisis," the president said. Snegur told his adversaries and opponents among the parliamentary majority: "Critics should have proposed other ways, but they simply do not exist unless we want to doom ourselves to self-isolation with its subsequent economic catastrophe and inevitable social upheaval."

Prosecutor Declares Ilascu Trial Closed

AU0510211593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2110 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASSAPRESS, 4/10/1993—From our special correspondent: The Tiraspol Court started today its work with the speech of Nina Averina, prosecutor's representative. Averina declared the trial closed. Ilie Ilascu presented a common declaration of defendants in which they demand the trial be held in Chisinau. Averina read the Prosecutor's Office report. "The Dniester Republic and the Court which represents it are legal structures since Moldova denied the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact. The present trial is a penal one and does not need to be transferred into the capital of a foreign state," said Averina. At 12.30 a.m.[0930 GMT] Olga Ivanova, chairman of the Court, announced the halting of the session at the request of the attorney of defendant Lesco.

Decree Issued on Observance of Religion Law

AU0610072293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2110 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 4/10/1993—Today President Mircea Snegur issued a decree according to which the State Service for Problems of Cults is created. It will be a consultative, informational and investigating service in the problems of cults and control over the execution of the law on cults. According to the decree, the Ministry of Culture and Cults is reorganized into the Ministry of Culture. Those who became unemployed as a result of this decree will get a job according to the current legislation. The Presidential Decree was issued "not to allow the unjustified interference of the state in the activity of cults, legally recognized in Moldova, to improve the control over the respect of the legislation on cults, taking into account the demands of clergy and of the faithful," states the preamble of the document.

Kazakhstan

Government To Require Visas for Baltic Visitors

LD0610124593 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Because Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania demand entry and exit visas from Kazakhstan citizens visiting these countries, the Cabinet of Ministers of Kazakhstan have decided that as of 22 October until the adoption of a corresponding agreement, citizens of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania coming to Kazakhstan must also have entry and exit visas to Kazakhstan with all consequences currently applicable to foreign citizens.

Citizens of the former Kazakh SSR who live on the territory of the aforementioned countries are allowed to enter and exit Kazakhstan without visas until 1 March 1994.

Nazarbayev Urges Russians, Germans To Remain

LD0610094693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Almaty, October 6 (TASS)—An unfavourable situation has developed at some Kazakh enterprises due to the outflow of skilled personnel from Kazakhstan (eds: Russians - to Russia and Germans - to Germany), Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said on Tuesday evening, speaking on the "Presidential Hour" programme of the republican TV network.

Nazarbayev appealed to Russians and Germans not to leave the republic. "All of you are securely protected from the legal point of view," he stressed. "The republic has everything that can ensure normal life and work for its citizens, irrespective of their nationality. It is possible to build a genuinely sovereign and prospering state only by common efforts," Nazargayev stressed.

Tajikistan

Russian Commander Denies Armed Border 'Breakthrough'

LD0510160393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 5 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe October 5 TASS—Commander of the Russian frontier troops in Tajikistan Anatoliy Chechulin did not confirm reports about an armed breakthrough of a major group of Tajik militants from Afghanistan.

He admitted that certain groups of militants attempted to cross the Pyanj River from Afghanistan near the settlement of Shurabad on Monday, but had to retreat under fire from Russian border guards who completely control the situation on the border.

Russian Border Guards Battle 'Infiltrators'

LD0510194393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Fighting has been raging for the third day in the area of the 12th post of the Moskovskiy Russian border guard unit.

A force of nearly 400 armed border infiltrators, most of them Rebirth of Tajikistan Islamic party fighters, believed to have been trained in Afghanistan, were sighted from a helicopter Sunday, October 3.

By October 5, officials in the Russian border guard headquarters say, Russian border guards and Tajik Security Ministry and Interior Ministy units supported by the air force destroyed most of the band. The area where small groups of the enemy continue resistance has been surrounded.

Russian border guards suffered no casualties in the fighting. Enemy casualties cannot be determined at this stage.

Officials in the Russian border guard headquarters believe that the increased rate of border violations is attributable to the developments in Moscow in the last two weeks.

Russian border guards lost 24 men when opposition fighters attacked the 12th post from Afghanistan.

Further on 'Armed Provocation'

LD0610084893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0733 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, October 6 (TASS)—ITAR-TASS learnt at the public relations centre of the Tajik Security Committee this morning that a new armed provocation was committed at a southern section of the Tajik-Afghan border on Tuesday evening.

Three missiles were fired at a section controlled by the 12th border post manned by Russian border troops from the Afghan territory. Luckily, there were no casualties among border guards. Enemy firing emplacements on the Afghan side were quashed with return artillery fire.

According to Farkhad Sharipov, head of the public relations centre of the Tajik Security Committee, this is not the only armed provocation committed by Tajik enemies from Afghanistan over the past few days.

A group of gunmen numbering over 200 managed to worm themselves into the Tajik territory at the Shuroabadsky direction of the border last Saturday and Sunday.

However, Russian border guards and Tajik security committee officers neutralised them from air. The Tajik security committee did not confirm a report by some mass media that a Russian helicopter gunship was downed during this operation.

The situation at that section has now stabilised and is under control of Russian border guards and Tajik security committee forces.

Dushanabe Protests to Afghan Consul

LD0610101293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0900 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Telephone report by correspondent Alisher Khodzhayev in Dushanbe; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Armed opposition detachments are continuing their provocations in spite of the agreement reached with the Afghan side on the peaceful settlement of border questions. At 1800 on 5 October a group of more than 350 men, armed with artillery and mortar systems, launched rockets at the positions of border post number 12 of the Moskovskiy border detachment. The grouping has now been cut off and government forces are taking steps to neutralize it. In this connection the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs has handed a protest note to the consul of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in Dushanbe.

Armenia

Cease-Fire Prolonged in Nagorno-Karabakh Until 5 Nov

LD0510135793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1309 GMT 5 Oct 93

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, October 5 (TASS)—Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan agreed to extend ceasefire for another month and until November 5 inclusive, the Foreign Ministry of the enclave said on Tuesday.

The previous ceasefire agreement expires today.

Self-defence headquarters of Karabakh said the conflicting sides observe the ceasefire "in general". No serious incidents were reported at the front over the past 24 hours.

Yerevan Reports 'Provocative Activities' at Borders

NC0510203893 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1430 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The situation in NKR's front lines is relatively peaceful. The sides are heeding the cease-fire agreement. That has created an opportunity for the holding of preliminary talks between the two republics.

It is common knowledge that the cease-fire agreement expired today. We wish to welcome a report by the NKR Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the duration of that agreement has been extended for a month. The ministry stressed that the agreement to extend the cease-fire has been reached between the officials of NKR and Azerbaijan.

Nevertheless, we regret to report that Azerbaijan has allowed provocative activities to take place in NKR's front lines and other parts of the border from time to time. For example, the Armenian defense positions in Mardakertskiy Rayon were fired on with various types of arms from the occupied areas in the northeastern part of that rayon the day before yesterday and last night. First reports said that no one was wounded on the Armenian side. The NKR defense forces refrained from returning the fire.

We must also stress that Azerbaijan's military forces also violated the cease-fire agreement in NKR's southern front lines. The Armenian defense positions in Dzhebrailskiy Rayon were fired on. However, the Armenian side refrained from returning the fire.

As a rule, Azerbaijan's mass media organs circulate unfounded reports before the provocative activities take place, accusing the NKR defense units of firing on Azerbaijan's military positions. That approach is aimed at creating an excuse for Azerbaijan's provocative activities. A similar report was circulated by Azerbaijan's mass media organs on 1 October. Quoting the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, the report said that the residential areas in Azerbaijan's [name indistinct] and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons were fired on with tanks and artillery guns.

It will be recalled that a multilateral effort is being made within the CSCE framework to remove the confrontation. Considering the opportunity that has arisen to peacefully resolve the existing problems and disputes, there is no need to maintain the combat operations and threaten the lives of innocent people. In view of that, provocative activities must be blocked.

The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is also relatively peaceful. Serious clashes and exchanges of fire have not taken place. Undoubtedly, the agreements the leading rayon officials of the two republics have reached in their talks have contributed toward that state of affairs. We hope that the shooting on the border will be permanently halted and the conditions required for the restoration of relations between the two republics will be created.

Karabakh, Armenia To Reply to CSCE Plan on 7 Oct

NC0410213393 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 4 Oct 93

[Text] Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic have not yet given their final and formal agreement to measures noted in the schedule on regulating the Karabakh conflict that was worked out at the CSCE's Minsk Group meeting in Paris between 22-28 September.

This does not mean, however, that the schedule is being rejected. It simply means that the reply will be given on the deadline of 7 October. This information was provided to our correspondent by the press service of the Armenian Foreign Ministry.

Yerevan Positively Assesses Azerbaijan's Elections

NC0510185393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1356 GMT 5 Oct 93

["The Armenian Foreign Department Positively Estimates the Results of Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Yerevan, October 5 (SNARK)—Aram Safaryan, press-secretary of the Armenian foreign department, told journalists at today's briefing that the establishment of stable and strong power in Azerbaijan corresponds to the interests of all the states in the region, including the interests of Armenians.

According to Safaryan, Armenia is deeply interested in strong partner because it will make him to be responsible for realization of the solutions of the CSCE and other international organizations.

Yerevan Joins IAEA, To Get Power Plant Assistance

NC0510170293 Yerevan SNARK in English 1356 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Yerevan, October 5 (SNARK)—Today the Armenian foreign department announces that Armenia has become a full member of the IAEA.

At the congress of the IAEA which took place in Austria Hans Bliks, head of the agency, said that "the renewal of the Armenian atomic station is possible just after undertaking the corresponding works". There, at the congress, was accepted the program of supplying Armenia with necessary help to renew the atomic station work.

At the same time Armenia and other states are expressing anxiety with the atomic station security.

Azerbaijan

President-Elect Aliyev Terms Elections 'Democratic'

LD0510194993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1528 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] The Azeri president elect Geydar Aliyev thinks that the Sunday presidential elections in his country were democratic. During his Monday meeting in Baku with the CSCE observer Jacques Rousele (France) he said that the present level of democracy is sufficient for the young Azeri state.

The statement followed the claim by the CSCE official that the elections cannot be considered democratic as several parties did not take part in them.

On the possibility of parliamentary elections in the near future, the head of state said the matter is complicated by a number of objective circumstances, such as the "occupation" of 20 percent of Azeri territory and the existence of one million refugees.

The same day Geydar Aliyev received a delegation of the Turkish parliament which followed the elections. He stressed that Azerbaijan's membership in the CIS and its rapprochement with Russia do not signify a worsening of relations with Turkey. "Turkey will always occupy a special place in the Azeri foreign policy," he emphasized.

Commenting on the calls by certain forces to restore the Soviet Union, Geydar Aliyev said, "as a person who knew the Soviet system well, I can say that the USSR will never be reborn. The formation did not stand a 70 year long test of history." He stressed that he will never let Azerbaijan lose its independence.

Sees Increasing Stability

NC0510200393 Baku TURAN in English 1356 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 5 (TURAN)—Lately we have held two big measures—referendum August 29 and presidential elections October 3. We have already felt that process of consolidation of the society began. It shows that social-political situation in the country is stabilizing, declared Geydar Aliyev during today's meeting with the delegation of monitors from Kazakhstan.

G. Aliyev stressed that state sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of the country were making the base of internal political course of the country. We hope that Kazakhstan will back our demands and plans, stressed Azeri leader.

In the course of the meeting both parties stressed necessity of more close relations between two countries.

Elchibey Intends To Continue Political Struggle

NC[illegible]0213493 Baku TURAN in English 1356 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 5 (TURAN)—To the point of view of President Elchibey, who is in the village of Keleki of Ordubadskiy region now, October 3 election, as well as August 29 referendum were falsified. He drew the attention at the fact, that this actions were held under the circumstances of supression of the main democratic liberties and the compaign of the arrests of the leaders and representatives of the opposition.

I consider the presidential elections held October 3 to be illegal and qualify them as the result of the June coup—the statement of President Abulfaz Elchibey, spreaded in Baku today runs. He again expressed his intention to continue his political struggle for elimination of the results of the coup and for restoration his presidential powers, given him by people.

CSCE Not Ready To Send Monitors to Nagorno-Karabakh

NC0510203293 Baku TURAN in English 1356 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, October 5 (TURAN)—As Moscow's correspondent of TURAN reports, the CSCE members are not ready yet to send 500 monitors to Nagorno-Karabakh to control the agreement on cease-fire. The CSCE general secretary V. Heink announced about it at The Hague meeting with the journalists.

As he told, up to now only 181 persons were ready to implement such mission and 30 of them were representatives of Western countries. He stressed that passivity of the West in this matter disappointed eastern-European countries. Sweden, being in the chair at the organization, makes large efforts to impel the participants of European process to

back such missions actively. V. Heink thinks that readiness to hold such missions can be real examination of vital capacity for the CSCE.

Radio Free Europe To Be Broadcast Without Interference

NC0510185993 Baku AZERTAC in English 1545 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 5 (AZERTAC)—Citizens of Baku will soon be able to listen to the Free Europe Radio [Radio Free Europe—RFE] without interference. Programs will be broadcasted on medium waves. The management of the Free Europe Radio station and the Ministry of Communications of Azerbaijan have recently signed an agreement on retransmission of this station's programs. Representatives of the Azerbaijan state administration participated in the ceremony.

The AZERTAC press agency has been told that programs will be retransmitted by means of satellite 5 hours daily.

Besides, programs of the Azerbaijan service of the Free Europe Radio station will be on the air 3 hours every day. Soon retransmission of programs of the Free Europe [will be] broadcasted on all the republic.

Georgia

Assassination Attempt on Supreme Soviet Chairman

LD0610013393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0000 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The RIA agency has reported that an attempt on the life of Ajari Supreme Soviet Chairman Aslan Abashidze was carried out in Batumi on 4 October. The speaker's bodyguards managed to detain and disarm the attacker. According to the Iprinda agency, the act was organized by supporters of Gamsakhurdia, former president of Georgia.

Government, Gamsakhurdia Units Clash in Samtredia

LD0510155893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] At 1600 Zaza Bilikhodze of the Georgian Interior ministry Press Center, told the Contact news agency from Samtredia that, at 1400 today, Gamsakhurdia's armed units opened fire on government forces and police checkpoints on the eastern bank of the River Tskheniistskali in Samtredia. The revanchists used automatic weapons, grenade launchers, and tanks. The firing, which lasted 10 minutes, destroyed a house belonging to a Kvantaliani family. The elderly housewife was killed. Two servicemen and one policeman were wounded.

After this incident, the armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia found refuge in the village of Marani.

The joint command of the government troops and police warns the former president's supporters that if similar incidents recur, strict measures will be taken.

Zviadists Attack Government Troops

LD0610140093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] The Georgian Defense Ministry's press center informed Interfax that armed supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia have attacked government troops on the approaches to the city of Samtredia.

A shell hit a house, killing an elderly woman. Three servicemen were wounded. The Georgian Defense Ministry presented an ultimatum to the armed opposition which says that if another attack is made resolute measures will be taken against the Zviadists.

NDP Leader Chanturia: All Zviadists Captured in Khoni

AU0510132593

[Editorial report] Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian in its 1000 GMT newscast carries a live or recorded four-minute telephone interview with Giorgi Chanturia, chairman of the National-Democratic Party, who is in Khoni [western Georgia]. Poor reception and poor accoustics preclude textual processing of the interview.

Asked about the current situation in Khone Chanturia says that it is "very good," "very stable and normal." He then qualifies this by saying that "there are several fronts. Positional battles are continuing." "If everything continues in this way and if there are no changes in military operations" "everything will end very (?soon) as it should end. The outcome will be very logical." He says that the population received the very large detachment of National Democrats there "very well." He mentions that "a curfew is in force" in Khoni and that the deputy gamgebeli (administrative board chairman) has been appointed commander of the town "on behalf of the provisional Committee for the State of Emergency." He continues by saying that "all Zviadists [supporters of deposed president Zviad Gamsakhurdia], all activists have been captured."

Asked to give his reaction to the events in Moscow, Chanturia says that "relatively normal forces are gaining a victory over overtly reactionary pro-fascist pro-communist forces. This, of course, is to be welcomed and, naturally, Georgia and Georgian politics should try to use such events for its own aims." He then emphasizes that "with the arrest of Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Makashov, and others, Gamsakhurdia has lost very big patrons in Moscow, and not only Gamsakhurdia but also other destructive anti-state forces such as [Abkhazian leader] Ardzinba."

Russian Officers Allegedly Join Rebels in Zugdidi

LD0510214593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1621 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—It has emerged from reliable sources that a group of 25 militants from Abkhazia arrived in Zugdidi (western Georgia) on 2 October. Most of the militants are Russian. The group is led by Petr Goncharenko, a former colonel at the Chief Intelligence Directorate of the Russian Supreme Soviet and a close friend of Aleksandr Rutskoy. His has two nicknames, Gonchar and Zolotoy. The group was brought to Zugdidi by a native of Sukhumi, Kakhaber Suloria, known in the cities of Novosibirsk and Pavlodar as a swindler [naperstochnik]. His nickname is Suliko.

The separatists were paying group members between $600 and $1,700 for their participation in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, depending on their individual skills. Each of them has a residence permit in Abkhazia and money credits to restore the damaged houses of banished Georgians. Goncharenko himself has been given an eight- room flat in the center of Sukhumi. He has close ties with Ardzinba and his minions. Goncharenko was invited as an esteemed guest to the Abkhaz separatist leader's birthday party. He was invited there with his friend, Valeriy Stanko, a mayor in the Air Force and former lecturer at the Air Force School under the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The group also includes former Captain Vladimir Furenko, who has been dismissed from the interior troops and spent two years in an Orenburg prison for the sadistic treatment of his subordinates. He is said to be dreaming of a Mercedes, which he is trying to earn by fighting Georgians. Furenko is an acquaintance of Loti Kobalia [Gamsakhurdia's supporter]. Last spring they met in Gudauta. This group is expected to stay with Kobalia in western Georgia for about 10 to 12 days.

In an effort to restore Gamsakhurdia to power, his supporters would balk at nothing. They are relying on bandits who have spilt rivers of civilian blood in Abkhazia, and have driven tens of thousands of Georgian refugees from their homes at gunpoint.

Press Center Says Russian Troops Fighting in West

LD0510180593 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1545 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 5 [dateline as received]—An IBERIA correspondent reports, citing the [Gamsakhurdia] press center in Zugdidi, that Georgian authorities have arrested Zviad Gamsakhurdia's supporters [in Tbilisi]: Lamara Shengelia, Manana Labadze, Roman Anjaparidze, Edmund Kalandadze [culture minister under Gamsakhurdia], Eka Egadze, Leri Gogoladze, and Tamriko Krekheli. The newspapers IBERIA-SPEKTR and SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO have been suspended.

The aforementioned press center also says that on the morning of 4 October government forces launched an offensive on Martvili and Khobi rayons [in Mingrelia]. The attackers used ground equipment and aviation. SU-25 planes bombed the village Khuntsi and surrounding villages. There are casualties among civilians.

The Zugdidi press center says that Russian troops were directly involved in the aforementioned combat operation. They were operating military planes, armored equipment, and artillery installations.

Captors Release Russian Border Guard Hostages

LD0610112993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1020 GMT 6 Oct 93

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Valeriy Litvinenko]

[Text] Moscow, October 6 (TASS)—Two Russian border guards—Lieutenant-Colonels Vladimir Rogal and Oleg Beskaravainy—who were taken hostage in Tbilisi by unidentified people over one week ago, were released as a result of resolute actions taken by the command of Russian border troops, CRIME-PRESS learnt at the press service of border troops here on Wednesday.

The two officers with bands on their eyes were driven from Tbilisi by car in the evening of October 4 and left at a vacant place 30 kilometers away from the Georgian capital. The car with his captors quickly disappeared in an unknown direction. The two officers arrived at the Headquarters of the North Caucasian Border District by foot at 04:00 [0100 GMT].

Precautionary measures taken by abductors during the capture, the officers' detention and their release make more plausible a version that officers of the Georgian Intelligence Service were involved in this operation.

Captured Russian Arms Supplier Shown on TV

PM0610082393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Oct 93 First Edition p 8

[Journalist Mikhail Yeligulashvili report: "Comrades-in-Arms Come Clean"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Georgian television's popular "Good Evening" program brought viewers a considerable amount of sensational material on the night of 3-4 October.

Mamuka Areshidze, the program's anchorman, introduced Petersburg archeologist Mikhail Demyanov, who was taken prisoner in the fighting around Sukhumi. He cannot strictly be called a mercenary who fought on the Abkhazian side. He and Vladislav Ardzinba have a long acquaintanceship based on their common profession. But now it is by no means scientific interest that has led Demyanov to Abkhazia; he came as a representative of the "Kontinent" commercial firm, which is engaged in delivering weapons to armed conflict zones and other locations on former USSR territory. Demyanov

recounted how he brought weapons into Abkhazia. But it was not always a case of weapons being bought for cash; there were also deliveries as "aid," so to speak. The names of Georgiy Bartsits and other military-industrial complex figures who are coordinating weapons deliveries to Abkhazia were mentioned. Demyanov also told of the Russian military's direct participation in combat operations, in particular as launcher operators of live missiles which have downed aircraft, etc. Information was heard that the Pskov Airborne Troops Division left its position and handed over its weapons to the Abkhazian side gratis.

The same television program publicized the intercept of a telephone conversation between Gudauta, the center of the Abkhaz separatists, and Zugdidi, the "center" of the Georgian ex-president's armed supporters. After offering their congratulations on the combat success, Zviad's supporters expressed the sole regret that the Abkhazians had not implemented certain of the preliminary agreement's points, specifically, they had failed to physically eliminate Dzhaba Ioseliani and Georgiy Karkashvili.

Who is fighting whom, and who is on whose side?

Shevardnadze Security Aide on Situation

LD0310154693 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0805 GMT 3 Oct 93

[Text] Perhaps the week's most dramatic event in the territory of the former Soviet Union was the Abkhaz rebels occupying Sukhumi. Is Georgia now going to break up? Gabor Nemes talked on the telephone to Tedo Japaridze, the national security adviser of President Shevardnadze. Wonder of wonders, the telephone is still working in the Georgian capital.

[Begin recording] [Japaridze in Russian fading to Hungarian translation] Relations with Russia continue to be the decisive issue for us. This has now got into an impasse, although it determines the future of Georgia as a state. For let us speak openly. It is very easy to manipulate, from outside, the forces taking part in the Abkhaz events and other Georgian events.

[Nemes] Do you have any concrete data to show that Russia really has interfered in the Abkhaz conflict?

[Japaridze] One does not need to look for concrete facts. It is enough if you look at the Abkhaz Army, the Abkhaz Air Force, the Abkhaz Fleet. Have a look at the pictures in the television reports of the tanks that have rolled into the streets of Sukhumi and the military aircraft that are flying overhead. What other facts do you want to hear? Where do these weapons come from, in your opinion?

[Nemes] Mr. Japaridze, you told me in April that Russia would like to be present politically and would like to play a role in the region, but that it has a basic interest in the existence of Georgia as a state.

[Japaridze] Well, this is precisely what surpises us. Speaking with the cynical tongue of politicians, Russia always will have an interest in the Caucasus and it would find it hard to assert these interests in the long term without a stable Georgia. Georgia is the guarantee of stability in the Caucasus, regardless of whether one likes Georgia or not.

[Nemes] If that is the case, then how do you explain's Russia's present policy?

[Japaridze] The way I explain it is to say that Georgia has become a victim of the internal political struggle that is raging within Russia. People belonging to the most conservative wing of the Russian political elite have been arriving in the region of the Abkhaz struggles. They have themselves admitted that in Abkhazia it is not a question of a war between the Georgians and Abkhazians, but of a struggle between various political forces within Russia.

[Nemes] So, do you think that Yeltsin and his camp are unable to carry through their own political line in the Abkhaz issue?

[Japaridze] Look, considering the political difficulties within Russia, I personally am of the view that the democrats and the conservatives are alike suffering from the malady of empire nostalgia. It is true that the empire can not be resurrected in a form like that of the Soviet Union. But there is unequivocally an endeavor, or an attempt, for Russia to extend its sphere of interests to the entire former Soviet Union. Of course, the democrats' and conservatives' methods are different, but in the internal political struggle, by now, even the democrats are playing according to the rules of the conservatives, to gain society's support and to show that they too support a strong Russia, the Russian sphere of interests. So, the difference is negligible between the two camps, if it is a question of relations with the former Soviet republics.

[Nemes] Be that as it may, what is your opinion? Do you think that the Russian central power is supervizing to the full extent those military forces, local leaders, who are active in the region of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict?

[Japaridze] I could pass this question on to the West, in which I include Hungary as well. If they wish, let them keep guessing. Because for us it is entirely a matter of indifference whether in the present situation it is the democrats or the conservatives who are strangling us. This is important rather from the viewpoint of the security of the West, of yourselves. Because if you consider it possible that the central power is not supervizing to the full extent its military forces deployed on Russia's periphery, that is a catastrophe not only for us and the other republics, but also for the whole of Europe.

[Nemes] You spoke about the strangling of Georgia. Do you think that Georgia could fall apart, could cease to exist as a state?

[Japaridze] Yes, I start out from that. I do not want to ring the alarm bells, but I think that if they begin to carve up Georgia, then it is possible that the country will

remain, as a geographical concept, but it will cease to have a meaning for its neighbors as a state with foreign relations—and for the West too, of course, in so far as the West is interested in us, anyway. But I repeat. The central issue of our foreign policy is our relationship with Russia. We want normal relations, taking it also into account that Russia always will have interests in Georgia. But this relationship can not be built on the old methods. The relations of colony and empire can not be restored. [end recording]

UN Says Up to 150,000 Civilians Fleeing Abkhazia

AU0510140693 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Geneva, Oct 5 (AFP)—Some 150,000 civilians have fled the fighting between Georgian government troops and separatist rebels in Abkhazia and about 50,000 are now trapped at altitudes of more than 2,000 metres in the Caucasus, the U.N.'s Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) said Tuesday in Geneva.

The DHA needs four to five helipcopters to take food and provisions to the refugees and evacuate those most seriously ill to Tblisi, according to Robert Souria, in charge of coordinating the aid operation.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (CICR) began distributing 30 tons of aid to the refugees on Tuesday, the Red Cross said in a statement on Tuesday in Geneva.

An ICRC convoy has reached Zugdidi and is on its way to to Sukhumi in northwest Georgia. A second convoy should reach the region on Wednesday.

Along with food, blankets, warm clothing and shoes, the ICRC has offered medical help to two hospitals in Zugdidi which are treating many people injured or made homeless as a result of the war.

A convoy set up jointly by the UN High Commission for Refugess and the French organization Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) is attemtping to reach Tblisi by road.

But a UN flight carrying aid which should have left Geneva for Tblisi this week has been postponed to next Monday, said a UN official.

The refugee crisis follows bitter fighting between forces loyal to the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, and Abkhazian separatists, who last week captured the regional capital of Sukhumi.

Georgian government troops are also involved a conflict in the west of the country, where the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, is leading an armed rebellion.

Butrus-Ghali's Special Envoy To Meet Abkhaz Officials

AU0510161693 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Geneva Oct 5 (AFP)—Talks between top-level Abkhazian officials and the UN secretary general's special envoy on strife-torn Georgia will take place Wednesday [6 October], a spokeswoman for the world body said here Tuesday.

Two days of "private talks" are set for UN headquarters here between Edouard Brunner and Abkhazian officials, said Therese Gastaut, adding that a date for talks with Georgian Government officials had yet to be set.

Secessionist forces last month captured the northwestern Georgian province of Abkhazia after inflicting a series of crushing military defeats on government troops.

Further on UN Officials-Abkhazians Talks

AU0610120293 Paris AFP in English 1142 GMT 6 Oct 93

[Text] Geneva, Oct 6 (AFP)—U.N. officials were set to launch peace moves for Georgia by opening bilateral talks here on Wednesday with the parties in conflict.

Edouard Brunner, special representative for Georgia of U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, was due to begin private talks with a delegation from breakaway Abkhazia, spokeswoman Therese Gastaut said. She expected the meeting to continue all through Thursday.

A date for similar bilateral contacts with the Georgian government remained to be set, she said. Diplomatic sources suggested they would probably take place next week.

There was no word on the composition of the delegation from Abkhazia, where secessionist forces have taken control of the autonomous republic and driven Georgian forces out of its capital Sukhumi after a two-week siege.

According to the U.N. humanitarian affairs department here, some 150,000 civilians fled when the Georgian troops abandoned Sukhumi nine days ago. Including women and children, about 50,000 of them are trapped in the Caucasus at more than 2,000 metres (6,600 feet) altitude as winter approaches.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze appealed last week for help from the United Nations and major Western countries.

Officer Implements Stricter Security Measures in Tbilisi

LD0510180693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 5 Oct 93

[Text] Colonel Zaza Chachua, who was appointed Tbilisi commandant Tuesday, has signed an order tightening security in the city.

Officials in the Georgian Defense Ministry told Interfax that servicemen are banned from appearing in public with weapons, military uniforms will not be allowed without a special permit.

Rallies and marches are banned, entry and exit in and out of the city will be restricted by special regulations, law enforcement officers are allowed to inspect cars. The airport, the railroad and vital services are placed under tight supervision.

The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze earlier introduced a 23:00 hours to 06:00 hours curfew in Tbilisi.

Gamsakhurdia Discusses Future Plans

PM0610113093 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Oct 93 p6

[Article by Jose-Alain Fralon: "'I Will Retake Georgia Step By Step' Former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia Tells Us"]

[Excerpts] Zugdidi—"I am in the same position as Father Aristide." Although the comparison with the frail Haitian priest is rather surprising, Zviad Gamsakhurdia is sticking to his guns: He is the only legal authority in Georgia and, convinced of being supported by "at least" 90 percent of the population, he said: "I will regain my country, step by step."

For the time being, the former president reigns in Zugdidi, capital of Mingrelia, his native region west of Tbilisi. In the city's former mayor's office, rechristened for the purpose "presidential palace," surrounded by his "government," he is protected very closely by his praetorian guard. [passage omitted]

On 6 January 1992, he was forced to leave the capital and take refuge in neighboring Chechnya. The path was then open for Eduard Shevardnadze, who was elected parliamentary speaker in October. "I was the victim of a junta," Zviad Gamsakhurdia stresses now, "inspired by the Communist Shevardnadze who, under Moscow's leadership, has eaten into Georgia." The two men do not like each other, to say the least.

Moreover, how could they understand each other—the former leader of the Georgian Communist Party who is calculating and skeptical, supported by the intellectuals, and known worldwide for taking part, as Mikhail Gorbachev's foreign minister, in one of the most formidable upheavals of the end of this century; and the fierce anticommunist, hotheaded and chaotic, whose renown is restricted to his country, or even his province, but who is still the spokesman of a deep-rooted Georgia, that of the rural districts or the city suburbs, that of the poor for whom his populist ideas have so much appeal?

At the end of September, when the Akhaz separatists were losing Sukhumi, people started to believe that a miracle had happened: Zviad Gamsakhurdia's armed troops had, they said, been placed under the Georgian defense ministry's authority to fight in Abkhazia. Today, Mr. Gamsakhurdia still says very little about the attitude of his troops. "A few divisions went to fight there," he merely replied. In his view, "there ought to have been negotiations with the Abkhazes from the start instead of launching a military operation."

One thing is certain: The weakening of the Georgian forces, demoralized by the fall of Sukhumi, strengthens Mr. Gamsakhurdia's position, especially because the latter admits that his men are now disarming the Georgian soldiers who are fleeing Abkhazia via Mingrelia. This region, one of the richest in Georgia, is now fully controlled by the supporters of the former president, who is extremely popular there. [passage omitted]

"Once Zviad Gamsakhurdia has regained power in Tbilisi, he will liberate Abkhazia as soon as is necessary," according to a man who, like most of the inhabitants of Zugdidi was passing the time in the street. On this point Zviad Gamsakhurdia was less clear: "The Abkhaz problem will have to be settled politically, but first we must defend ourselves against Eduard Shevardnadze's communist regime which wants to weaken our region." It is also for "self defense" that he has decreed mobilization in his region, including that of the Abkhazian refugees who are arriving in Zugdidi in their thousands.

The aim, therefore, is clear: Once Mingrelia has been "reconquered," which was finally achieved on Saturday with the capture of the port of Poti, it will be necessary to march on Tbilisi. How? "Peacefully," the former president replied, because "the Georgians will never fire on Georgians." Indeed? When he has reestablished his presidential rule, Zviad Gamsakhurdia intends to hold elections, but only to choose a new parliament. He is not considering putting his own mandate at stake. "I have been elected for a term lasting until 1996." As for Eduard Shevardnadze, "he must resign."

Loti Kobalia, Mr. Gamsakhurdia's "chief of staff," sporting a Cuban general's beard, a "USA California" cap on his head, a Russian military terminology book on his desk, has a different idea: "For Zviad Gamsakhurdia to be installed as president of the republic and for Eduard Shevardnadze to remain speaker of the house." He too talks of a peaceful return to Tbilisi. "We will organize rallies and meetings in all the cities and all the villages and we will know then who supports us."

Will Zviad Gamsakhurdia manage to leave Mingrelia and start his march—triumphal, he hopes—toward Tbilisi? In the Georgian capital, where a curfew was imposed on Sunday evening, Mr. Shevardnadze's supporters seem to be increasingly worried. Already some members of the intelligentsia are talking of emigrating. "Lists have been drawn up, he will arrest us all," one professor, anxious to remain anonymous, told us. As for Mr. Shevardnadze, he is no longer able to find the necessary words to mobilize his country and try to prevent the irreparable. "It is terrible," a Tbilisi doctor said in confidence on Sunday evening, "to know that we are on the brink of civil war, that our country will probably not recover from it for decades, despite the fact that the example of former Yugoslavia is very near, and that, despite that, this confrontation seems inevitable."